

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
AND  
PRIVACY ACTS**

**SUBJECT: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

**HQ FILE: 100-50869**

**SECTION 13**



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

## NOTICE

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696

June 11, 1961

REC-53

[REDACTED]

I have received your letter of June 11 and appreciate your concern which is completely understandable.

In response to your request, I would like to point out that the FBI is strictly an investigative agency of the Federal Government and neither conducts any kind of propaganda campaign nor does it have any authority to disseminate information to the public. It is not a propaganda agency and it is not a public relations office.

In view of your interest in the subject of Communism, I would like to suggest that you might wish to read the following book which is available for sale:

Communism: Enemy of Religion  
Series from Christianity Today

4-17-61 Internal Security Statement  
Communist Illusion & Democratic Reality  
What You Can Do To Fight Communism

Communism: Enemy of Religion  
Series from Christianity Today

**NOTE:** Bufiles contain no information identifiable with correspondent. The National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) includes in its membership the leading Protestant Churches in the country. Various critics of the Council without access to factual data to support their assertions, have claimed this group is communist controlled or influenced. The FBI, of course, has not investigated the NCCC. (100-50950)

20  
MS:pl (3)

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Evans	
Mr. Malone	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Ingram	
Miss Gandy	

June 17, 1961

36740

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We've been reading your "Masters of Deceit", You've done a lot for your country, but this one is one of your most successful efforts. We've talked to a lot of people recently that have been nudged off of high center to find out something about what's going on, and all give you a lot of credit.

In fact we've noticed all around us more and more people taking an active interest in the local cold war. The car pools are talking about it, and the bridge clubs, and the back fence chats, and at most anywhere a few are together. Maybe the real power of our public opinion is about to wake up and get in the act.

We read the Ft. Worth news reports on a sermon by Rev. Leatherbury and his very critical views on The National Council of Churches of Christ which was given a few months ago.. We too are Episcopalians and if this man's allegations are true, a serious situation exists.

The good reverend doesn't go so far as to say the National Council of Churches of Christ is a red front organization but we "hear" that this is so. Local inquiry fails to get a clear answer, always we are referred to you. Accordingly, we would appreciate knowing the facts, can you tell us if this is a communist run or communist inspired organization? We would appreciate receiving as much information as can be disclosed, or knowing where to request same.

Many thanks,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address]

160-50949-2

REC-90

EX-105

10 JUN 20 1961

CORRESPONDENCE

JUN 20 1961  
 O R D E R  
 10

*DM*

*Handwritten notes:*  
 6-26-61  
 8/2/61  
 10/1/61

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Winterrowd	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Holloman	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

June 15, 1961

Dear Mr. Hoover,

The situation looks SO hopeless down here in Texas! The country seems to be heading down the road to subjugation. I feel sorry for you, because I sincerely feel that you are one of the few remaining patriots left in Washington.

Doesn't the situation become almost overwhelming at times? Especially with the Supreme Court rulings frustating you at every turn?

When the recent presidential election was in full swing, I went around town with the sticker: Goldwater-Hoover on my car. The only thing, you boys weren't nominated! (I trust you like Mr. Goldwater as well as I do.)

My purpose in writing this letter is not only to thank you for your worthwhile work as a patriot in trying to preserve this republic from those who have sworn to bury us, but also to ask you if there isn't something more I as a private citizen can do to help my country.

At the present time, I try to keep informed on legislation in Congress, who voted for what, etc.; write congressmen; talk Americanism with my patients; try to point out the urgency of the Communist menace, and the necessity for recognizing that menace; encourage hard work, and good citizenship; try to be independent, and teach my patients to think independently of the Federal Government; encouraging the Free Enterprise System; and, lastly, flying the U.S. flag whenever possible. Eut, this is so little. I subscribe to literature which will develop the reader's thinking, and place it in my waiting room, but I want to do more. Is there something else I can do?

EX-105

REC-24

695

Also, does your organization have any policy regarding the National Council of Churches which you would care to disclose? I know the commies are trying to infiltrate our educational system, and it is entirely feasible that they would try to infiltrate our religion, too.

We are waking up here in Texas, Mr. Hoover, and we are still great in numbers when it comes to patriotism, and believing that this great Nation is still worth preserving. We have a proud heritage, and I would rather fight for it now than have my son have to do it 15 years from now.

With very best wishes,

58 IN 29151

Leticia B. Anselm, M.D.

44-39

694

June 19, 1961

JUN 19 4 31 PM '61

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received the letter from you and your husband, with enclosures, dated June 11 and appreciate the concern which prompted your communication.

Our churches have been and will continue to be important targets in the over-all communist program of endeavoring to control established institutions, and we must be alert to such efforts to control ours. The communists have tried to infiltrate every part of our society, and I agree with you wholeheartedly that patriotic Americans must continue to take a firm stand against communism and combat it wherever possible. But this opposition to communism must be careful, constructive and positive, and it must always be kept within the due process of law. In reference to Mr. Cassels' article, Assistant Director William C. Sullivan, in his discussion of communism, dealt with this subject accurately and objectively. I am enclosing a copy of Mr. Sullivan's address in order that you may have the benefit of the full text of his remarks.

Sincerely,  
J. Edgar Hoover

✓

JRS

[Handwritten signature]

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Evans \_\_\_\_\_
- Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosure

NOTE: SEE NEXT PAGE.  
JRS:nss (3)

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

56 JUN 27 1961

NOTE: Bufiles contain no information identifiable with either [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] They enclosed two church bulletins which  
had been mailed to them, both of which included portions of the recent  
article written by Louis Cassels of United Press International. Correspond-  
ent mentions she and her husband attended the Christian Anti-Communism  
school of "Dr. Fred Swartz." [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

11 June 1961

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

APPV ✓  
Drem ✓

*Handwritten initials*

J. Edgar Hoover  
Department of Internal Revenue  
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Mr. Hoover:

Enclosed you will find two items mailed to us with in the past three weeks from The First Methodist and The First Christian Churches in this area, both churches are members of The National Council of Churches, which perhaps explains the issue to a degree.

We have read your book, Masters of Deceit and as many of your articles as possible.

The enclosed articles as we read them do not correspond with the message in your book.

We attended the Christian Anti- Communism school. (Dr. Fred Swartz) Freedom Forum. Adult Education classes at [redacted]

[redacted] Americanism vs. Communism. We subscribe to and read Human Events, U. S. News and World Reports. We have read The Naked Communist, You Can Trust A Communist, Philbricks reports, Matt Cevetic, articles and reports by The House Un-American Activities Committee, Overstreets, Barry Goldwater and many, many others.

Does this enclosed article mean that all Anti-Communists are self appointed vigilantes. That self education about Communism is wrong, using reference books such as Masters of Deceit pages 303, 304 & 305, The Naked Communist and House Committee on Un-American Activities reports to mention a few.

Is it correct for a Church or other organization to devote more time criticizing Anti-Communists than Communism and at the same time embracing the Russian Orthodox Church, recommending the recognition of Red China, opposing the showing of Operation Abolition.

1961 JUN 14 1961

694

REC-39

122

*Handwritten signature*

*Handwritten notes and stamps*



Last but not least to mention The Council favoring the  
abolishment of the House Un-American Activities Committee.

We would appreciate an answer to this letter in order to  
straighten out the thinking (ours and many others included)  
on this array of conflicting statements issued by your  
department.

Thankyou.

Sincerely,

A large, solid black rectangular redaction covers the signature area of the letter.

encl: 2

692

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : The Director

DATE: June 7, 1961

FROM : N. P. Callahan

SUBJECT: The Congressional Record

## APPENDIX

Pages A4018-A4089. Congressman Alford, (D) Arkansas, extended his remarks to include the sermon delivered in St. John's Episcopal Church, Fort Worth, Texas, by the Reverend John R. Leatherbury on the subject of the National Council of Churches. Reverend Leatherbury comments on the activities of the National Council of Churches and points out that the Council has felt called upon to speak on several controversial subjects, such as capital punishment, medicine for the aged, against the movie "Operation Abolition," etc. Reverend Leatherbury advised that he intended to ask the Bishop to get him out of the Council. Reverend Leatherbury stated "Some of the bishops who represent us on the National Council of Churches is the controversial bishop of California; another one is the bishop of Bethlehem who is taking J. Edgar Hoover to task about capital punishment, and I assure you, of the two, I imagine J. Edgar Hoover knows 'just a bit more' about capital punishment than does the bishop of Bethlehem, Pa." Reverend Leatherbury pointed out that the Council "asked that the clergy not show the movie 'Operation Abolition' because they maintain that the Un-American Activities Committee and the FBI have 'tramed' this film. Now, Mr. J. Edgar Hoover is not running for any job, he has it made I think. Read his book 'Masters of Deceit' and you'll find out whether or not any Communists have gotten into the church. The bishop of the diocese got quite concerned about the movie 'Operation Abolition.' He wrote Mr. J. Edgar Hoover. Reverend Leatherbury included the letter Mr. Hoover sent to Bishop Mason.

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 66-1731

100-50869  
NOT RECORDED  
199 JUN 21 1961

In the original of a memorandum captioned and dated as above, the Congressional Record for 6-6-61 was reviewed and pertinent items were marked for the Director's attention. This form has been prepared in order that portions of a copy of the original memorandum may be clipped, mounted, and placed in appropriate Bureau case or subject matter files.

55 JUN 27 1961 F114

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 6/9/61

FROM : SAC, INDIANAPOLIS (94-232)

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

Mr. Tols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	✓
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Malone	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Ingram	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

RESEARCH (Correspondence and Tours)

Re CI airtel to Director dated 5/25/61

Rev. [REDACTED] Pastor, [REDACTED] Indiana, residing [REDACTED] was contacted by SA [REDACTED] 5/5/61 as per instructions in referenced airtel.

He was advised that an unnamed individual from Columbus, Ohio who had attended an Evangelistic meeting at the [REDACTED] Ohio, had contacted the Columbus Rm. This individual had advised that Rev. [REDACTED] had made the statement "Registered Communists are connected with our National Council of Churches" and that proof could be obtained from the FBI in Washington, D.C.

Rev. [REDACTED] denied having made quoted statement concerning registered communists. He felt that he had probably made a statement to the effect that communists have infiltrated the National Federal Council of Churches. Rev. [REDACTED] had been under the impression the FBI in Washington would furnish material to citizens concerning communism although he knew the FBI would not be able to furnish publications documenting individuals as "registered communists".

Rev. [REDACTED] was advised that the FBI does not comment concerning the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. He was advised that the FBI has made no comment concerning the National Council of Churches or any similar organization.

- 2 - Bureau (RM)
- 1 - Indianapolis

HSK/kam  
(3)

REC-26

JUN 20 1961

EX-113

JUN 14 1961

Rev. [REDACTED] was requested that in the future, remarks to his audiences should be made clear that the FBI has made no comment concerning the National Federal Council of Churches and further that the FBI will not furnish to anyone other than duly-authorized agencies of the Federal Government, information from its confidential files.

Rev. [REDACTED] was furnished a copy of the manuscript of Chief Inspector WILLIAM C. SULLIVAN entitled "Communism and Religion" dated 2/22/61. In reviewing Page 5 of this manuscript, Rev. [REDACTED] seized upon the word "substantial" in the statement "...the Communist Party, USA, has not achieved any substantial success in exerting domination, control or influence over America's clergymen or religious institutions on a national scale." He attempted to get SA [REDACTED] to comment that by inference this must mean that there has been some communist infiltration of the National Federal Council of Churches. SA [REDACTED] of course, had absolutely no comment on this matter.

Rev. [REDACTED] expressed high admiration for the work of the FBI. He is using Director HOOVER's books and public statements as source material for his sermons on the dangers of communism. He has served as a missionary in [REDACTED] during the [REDACTED] and as such has had first-hand experience with refugees from communism. He does not have a copy of Mr. HOOVER's "Masters of Deceit" and it was suggested to him that he might desire to purchase a copy for use in his pastoral work.

Rev. [REDACTED] was concerned that others who had participated in his Evangelistic meetings at [REDACTED] might have also gained the wrong impression from his remarks. He contemplates sending a letter to Rev. [REDACTED] Pastor of the [REDACTED] for reading at a worship service so as to explain that he (Rev. [REDACTED]) had not meant to give the impression that "Registered communists are connected with the National Federal Council of Churches." In this letter, he would also correct the impression which he had left with his audience that the FBI would furnish documentary proof of this fact to those who might request same from the FBI.

As a result of the conversation with Rev. [REDACTED] it appeared to SA [REDACTED] that the authoritative statements contained

IP 94-232

in Chief Inspector SULLIVAN's manuscript had no effect whatsoever in changing Rev. [REDACTED] conviction that the National Federal Council of Churches is thoroughly infiltrated by the communists. Rev. [REDACTED] indicated that his religious convictions place him with the "Fundamentalists" in Protestant religious theology and he feels that the National Federal Council of Churches is inclined toward "modernity". Further, his convictions that the National Federal Council of Churches and the Protestant clergy (other than, of course, the pastors belonging to the fundamentalist sects) are thoroughly infiltrated by communists give him one of his better-talking points in his Evangelistic sermons.

Rev. [REDACTED] was not antagonistic. As mentioned above, he expressed great admiration for the work of the FBI. He indicated regret that his lack of knowledge concerning the functions of the FBI had made it necessary for an Agent to take time from his other important assignments to contact him. He requested that any available material concerning communism and crime be sent to him.

Indianapolis recommends that the Bureau packets on both crime and communism be sent to Rev. [REDACTED] Church, [REDACTED] Indiana.

June 16, 1961

REC-3

691

[Redacted]

JUN 17 4 19 PM '61

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED

Dear [Redacted]

I have received your letter of June 10 and the interest prompting you to communicate is appreciated.

With respect to your inquiry, the film, "Operation Abolition," is sponsored and distributed by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, and the FBI had no connection with its preparation. As a matter of policy, therefore, I did not endorse this film and I am unable to make any comment regarding it.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

NOTE: No information could be located in Bufiles identifiable with correspondent.

[Redacted]

The National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) includes in its membership the leading Protestant churches in the country. Various critics of the Council without access to factual data to support their assertions have claimed this group is communist controlled or influenced. The FBI, of course, has not investigated the NCCC. (100-50869)

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED

JUN 16 1961

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Evans \_\_\_\_\_
- Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Winter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_

60 JUN 23 1961

TELETYPE UNIT  JCF:kkg (3)

*[Handwritten signature]*

[REDACTED]  
June 10, 1961

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I belong to a Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation study group. My group has shown the film, Operation Abolition, at the city hall in Alton. There has been quite a controversy on the authenticity of the film and question to whether it is documentary. Also, many people have criticized the film in newspaper editorials as a distortion of the truth, a scare and hate film, or a pack of lies.

I procured a booklet called "Operation Abolition: Some Facts and Some Comments". It is put out by the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. The booklet gives one the impression that the film is shady and deceitful.

I have heard from reliable sources that you have endorsed the film as authentic and documentary. I and many others respect your views and opinions on such matters because we believe you have been in the business long enough to know what our country is up against.

I would appreciate it immensely if you would write a letter back to me expressing your views and opinions on the film. I would use this letter to settle some of the doubts and arguments. Thank you!

Sincerely yours,

/s/ [REDACTED]

REC-3

JUN 10 1961

June 10, 1961

Dear Mr. Hoover,

Mr. Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. [unclear]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Callahan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Conrad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. DeLoach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Evans	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Malone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Rosen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Sullivan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Tavel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Trotter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Ingram	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miss Gandy	<input type="checkbox"/>

I belong to a Cardinal Meryn Foundation study group. This group has shown the film, Operation Abolition, at the city hall in [unclear].

There has been quite a controversy on the authenticity of the film and question to whether it is documentary. Also, many people have criticized the film in newspaper editorials as a distortion of the truth, a scare and hate film, or a pack of lies.

I procured a booklet called "Operation Abolition: Some Facts and Some Comments". It is put out by the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. The booklet gives me the impression that the film is shady and deceptive.

I have heard from [unclear] that you have endorsed the film as authentic and documentary. In as many other respects your views and opinions are made well known. We believe you have been [unclear].



business long enough to know up  
out country is up again.

I would appreciate it immensely  
if you would write a letter back  
to me expressing your views and  
opinions on the film. I would  
use the letter to attract some of  
the best and arguments. Thank you

Sincerely yours  


UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach *DeLoach*

DATE: 5-9-61

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: J. ERWIN MILLER  
 LAY PRESIDENT  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES  
OF CHRIST (NCCC)  
 COLUMBUS, INDIANA  
 REQUEST TO SEE THE DIRECTOR

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
 Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Fred S. Buschmeyer, the Washington secretary of the NCCC, telephone LI 4-2350, called Mr. Kemper on 5-8-61 stating captioned individual would like to arrange an appointment with the Director at Mr. Hoover's convenience. According to Dr. Buschmeyer, Miller is very wealthy and travels constantly throughout the country. If the Director should indicate he can see Miller, he (Miller) will fly to Washington for the appointment. Dr. Buschmeyer requested to be called regarding the result of Miller's request.

INFORMATION IN BUREAU FILES:

The current edition of "Who's Who" lists James Irwin Miller as a manufacturer in Columbus, Indiana. He was born on 5-26-09, and received an A. B. degree from Yale University in 1931, an M. A. degree from Oxford (England) University in 1933, and an LL. D. degree from Bethany College in 1956.

Based on available information, the only reference identifiable in Bureau files regarding Miller was a United Press International ticker, dated 6-26-59, which reported that Senator Homer E. Capehart had asked President Eisenhower to appoint J. Erwin Miller, wealthy Columbus, Indiana, industrialist, as the Secretary of Commerce. (62-46126-A)

The National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) includes in its membership the leading Protestant churches in the country. Various critics of the Council, without access to factual data to support their assertions, have claimed this group is communist controlled or influenced. Although the Bureau has not investigated the NCCC, we have kept abreast of the efforts of the Communist Party, USA (CPUSA) to infiltrate it through our over-all investigation of the Party and communist efforts to infiltrate mass-type organizations. From information developed, it does not appear that the policies of the NCCC are being dictated by the Communist Party.

REC-23

690

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Ingram

RLR:par (8)

JUN 20 1961  
 CRIME  
*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

DeLoach Memo  
in Miller

On 3-23-61, the Dallas SAC forwarded a postal card addressed to a  
the Methodist Church which contained the typewritten message:

"The National Council of Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.  
officially sponsored the Revised Standard Version of the Bible.  
Of the 95 persons who served on this project, 39 have been  
affiliated with pro-Communist fronts, projects, and publications.

--J. Edgar Hoover "

An SAC Letter was sent to all offices alerting them to this and other  
mailed in the Dallas, Texas, area. (100-50869)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) That someone in your (Mr. DeLoach's) office contact Dr. Buschmeyer,  
and advise him the uncertainty of the Director's schedule precludes any  
appointment being made.

(2) Due to Miller's stature in the industrial field, it should be suggested  
Buschmeyer that Miller might desire to call the Bureau for an appointment  
time he is in Washington and, if the Director is not in his office, the services  
of a consultant will be made available.

Letter to [REDACTED]

Enclosures (5)

What You Can Do To Fight Communism

4-1-61 LEB Introduction

4-17-61 Internal Security Statement

Communist Illusion and Democratic Reality

One Nation's Response to Communism

NOTE: Bufiles contain no identifiable information regarding the correspondent.

689

REC-36

June 16, 1961

689

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

I have received your letter of June 13, with enclosure, and I am most appreciative of your generous comment about my book, "Masters of Deceit."

Our churches have been and will continue to be important targets in the over-all communist program of endeavoring to infiltrate our established institutions, and we must remain alert to such efforts to subvert our way of life. The communists have tried to exert their influence in every part of our society, and I agree with you wholeheartedly that patriotic Americans must continue to take a firm stand against communism and combat it wherever possible. But this opposition to communism must be careful, constructive and positive, and it must always be kept within the process of law. President John F. Kennedy and William F. Buckley in his discussion of communism deal with this subject both objectively and accurately.

I am enclosing several items setting forth my views on this subject in the belief they may be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED  
JUN 16 1961

Enclosures (5)  
(Listed next page)

SEE NOTE NEXT PAGE

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Tullaghan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Evans \_\_\_\_\_
- Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

JMM:hlw (3)

JUN 20 1961

JUN 16 9 33 PM '61

June 13th — 61

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover-

I am enclosing a portion of our State Church paper in which there is a quotation which has disturbed several of our members, who are trying to get our local Church to withdraw from the National Council of Churches.

This gives a different impression than your book. "Masters of Deceit," (which is excellent)

Is this taken out of context? Or is there no real reason for concern?

Many of us feel that we do not want to be connected with an Organization, whose leaders are against the House Un-American Activities Com; and who are for admitting Red China to the U. N.

Our Church board will act on this question Wed. nite June 21st and no doubt this quotation will have a bearing on the decision.

I have the utmost confidence in you and will appreciate an answer as soon as possible. Thank you so very much.

I am

Most Sincerely

/s/ 



June 14 1961 33

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

Mr. Edgar Hoover  
Washington, D.C.

EXP

JUN 14 1961

Dear Mr. Hoover -

I am enclosing a portion of a State Church paper in which there is a quotation which has disturbed several of our members, who are trying to get our local church to withdraw from the National Council of Churches. National Council of Churches

This gives a different impression than your book, Masters of Deceit (which is excellent)

Is this taken out of context? Or is there no real reason for concern?

Many of us feel that we do not want to be connected with an organization whose leaders are against the Douglas MacArthur Act of 1950; and who are for admitting Red China to the U.N.

Our Church board will act on this question next week June 21st and no doubt this quotation will have a bearing on the decision.

I have the utmost confidence in you and will appreciate an answer as soon as possible. Thank you so much

Yours sincerely,  
[Signature]

ENCLOSURE  
ad: 6-16-61  
JMA/jak



REC-50

688

June 14, 1961

EX-108

[Redacted]

JUN 14 2 21 PM '61

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter of June 8, 1961, with enclosure, has been received, and the interest which prompted you to write is appreciated.

Although I would like to be of service, the FBI is an investigative agency of the Federal Government and, as such, does not make evaluations nor draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. I regret that I am unable to help you and hope that you will not infer in this connection either that we do or that we do not have data in our files relating to the subjects of your inquiry.

Enclosed is some literature dealing with the general subject of communism which may be of interest, along with the self-addressed, stamped envelope you provided.

Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED  
JUN 14 1961  
COMM-FBI

- Enclosures (4)
- 4-1-61 LEB Intro
- 4-17-61 Internal Security Statement
- Communist Illusion & Democratic Reality
- Correspondent's envelope

LWE:js\* (3)

MAIL ROOM

TELETYPE UNIT

(SEE NEXT PAGE)

66 JUN 20 1961



[REDACTED]

**NOTE**

[REDACTED]

The National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) includes in its membership the leading Protestant churches in the country. Various critics of the Council, without access to factual data to support their assertions, have claimed this group is communist controlled or influenced. The FBI, of course, has not investigated the NCCC. (100-50869) Bufiles contain no record of correspondent.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
June 8, 1961

Office of the F.B.I.  
Washington D.C., U.S.A.

Gentlemen:

There has been much written and discussed of late regarding the National Council of Churches. The First Presbyterian Church of Denver, Colorado and the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, California recently announced their withdrawal from the National Council; due to its Communistic leanings. I have before me a copy of the objectives of the National Council, and also, those of the communist party; taken from the HUAC Report # 187, 3/8/59, p45. Of the eighteen objectives listed for both, they are identical. I represent a group of mothers of small children, the generation of tomorrow, and we are very much concerned.

Our last monthly church magazine announced that the Riverside Presbytery gave full support to the National Council. Some of our most substantial members have withdrawn the membership and affiliated with a church that is not connected with the National Council. This is regretful, indeed; however before we say or do anything we would like to be sure that we know what we are talking about. Sudden panic and too much talk can often do unreparable damage.

100-5011-688

EX-108

JUN 15 1961

My husband is not an alarmist, nor will he listen to gossip, but he is our local representative to the Southern California Presbyterial Meeting to be held in Los Angeles the end of this month. I cannot even talk to him about this without more evidence to base my feelings upon.

Do you have available for distribution to the public any facts pro or con on the National Council of Churches? If so would you send me as many as you are allowed to.

Rev. Eugene Carson Blake recently gave an address in Los Angeles. Upon rereading it there is much between the lines that does not smell so good; in fact he speaks in circles, and contradicts himself frequently. Do you have any information as to his affiliation in or out of the Communist Party? I would also appreciate copies of that. Rev. Blake blasted Robert Welsh and the John Birch Society so much that we would also like any information available on it.

We all are aware that the Communists would like nothing better than to see Americans panic, yet on the other hand the apathy of most as they listen to these do-gooders, is disgusting to say the least. As mothers we have read "Nine Men Against America" and "Masters of Deceit", but we are still in the dark about many things.

We plan to meet regularly in study groups concerning national affairs this summer. If successful we hope expand and include as many mothers or women like ourselves who are interested in knowing the true facts and hearsay

that is changed several times before it comes to us.

We would appreciate any information now and regularly in the future that you feel would be of benefit to us, our children, and the nation. If you would add this to the information you are able to send us on the National Council of Churches, Rev. Eugene Carson Blake, and the John Birsh Society, it will be very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

1. [REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED]

June 13, 1961

REC-50

687

EX-108

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter of June 6, 1961, with enclosure, has been received, and the interest which prompted you to write is appreciated.

I would like to point out that in Assistant Director William C. Sullivan's presentation of the true nature and objectives of communism, he has treated the subject accurately and objectively. This Bureau has not issued any statements regarding the Air Force manual, as you indicated in your letter.

Your concern regarding the menace of communism is indeed understandable, and enclosed is some literature dealing with the general subject of subversion which may be of interest, along with your bulletin.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

MAILED 25  
JUN 13 1961  
COMM-FBI

Enclosures (4)  
Communist Illusion and Democratic Reality  
Christianity Today series

4-17-61 statement on job security  
NOTE: No record Bufiles identifiable with correspondent. Enclosure was a mimeographed sheet pertaining to Assistant Director Sullivan's speech regarding communist infiltration of religion. This appears to be a church bulletin.  
Correspondent's enclosure returned 1-26-61

RWE:ncr (3)

MAIL ROOM

66 JUN 20 1961

- Tolson
- Belmont
- Mohr
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- DeLoach
- Evans
- Malone
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Ingram
- Gandy

JUN 13 4 32 PM '61

(S-1)

Director J. Edgar Hoover

Washington, D. C.


Dear Sir:

I am a member of the local Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church, which is affiliated with the National Council of Churches. My husband and I have organized the church choir, and I have been asked to contribute to a church that will be a communicative organization, neither can I attend a church service.

I have also been asked to contribute information that will be used in the preparation of a report on the activities of the church in the area.

Since the church is a non-profit organization, would you please advise me, if you feel free to do so, if Mr. Sullivan is speaking the truth, or not, and if so, who did your agent state that the Air Force General stated the truth?

If it is your desire I will keep your answer confidential; if you desire to give me information please advise. I would like the enclosed section of the collection returned to me.

Very truly yours,  


EX-108

REC-50

JUN 15 1961

10-10-61

*Returned*

10-10-61

F B I

Date: 6/12/61

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-59207) (ATTENTION: CENTRAL RESEARCH DESK)  
RE: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE USA - INFORMATION CONCERNING

*WAT*  
*WY*

Enclosed herewith for The Bureau, Attention Central Research Desk, is the 11 page mimeographed statement captioned "Statement of Admonition to the National Council of Churches in the U. S. A." (NCC), which was adopted on 6/7/61 by the First Baptist Church of Alhambra, Alhambra, California. The attention of the Bureau is being directed to pages 7 through 9 wherein director J. EDGAR HOOVER's report, "Communist Target Youth" is being discussed. It is noted that Mr. HOOVER is described as "a ~~Communist~~ authority on Communism in the United States" and all information is favorable toward the Bureau and Mr. HOOVER's report.

*6/15/61*  
*CRB*

This "statement" was obtained by [REDACTED] a member of this church.

The statement is being forwarded to the Bureau for its information.

C  
4 - Bureau (Encl. 1) (REGISTERED) REC-53  
1 - Los Angeles  
CEW/sgt  
(5)

*100-59207-31*

JUN 15 1961

ENCLOSURE

EX-114

*6-17 sent LA  
noting typographical  
error and indicating  
correction to be made  
6/15/61*

C. Wick

*[Handwritten signature]*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

JUN 21 1961

685

REC-9

June 13, 1961

AIRMAIL

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

JUN 15 3 11 PM '61

I have received your letter of June 8 and do appreciate the interest which prompted you to communicate with me.

It is always pleasing to hear from citizens who demonstrate an awareness of the problems facing this country and who are willing to help in the solution of these problems. The Government is always open to suggestions and criticisms, and it is particularly interested in the general subject of economic development. You may feel free to use any of these items in the manner you described, and you will note there are some suggestions included as to methods which are available in applying alternative influences.

With respect to your question, the FBI is strictly an investigative agency of the Federal Government, and it does not evaluate nor draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. I regret I cannot say more than that you will be fair in this case. I am sure that the FBI will be able to assist you in your efforts to solve the problem.

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Wick \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

JUN 16 1961  
 Enclosures (5)  
 1 - Savannah - Enclosure  
 HHA:d.p (5)  
 TELETYPE UNIT

SEE NOTE & ENCLOSURES ON NEXT PAGE.



**ENCLOSURES**

Communism and Religion (Speech by W. C. Sullivan)  
4-17-61 Statement re internal security  
Communist Illusion and Democratic Reality  
One Nation's Response to Communism  
What You Can Do To Fight Communism

**NOTE:** Bufiles contain nothing of a derogatory nature concerning [REDACTED] and no record could be located regarding his publication. Letter being sent Airmail since he desires Mr. Sullivan's speech by next Friday, 6-16-61.

The National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) includes in its membership the leading Protestant churches in the country. Various critics of the Council, without access to factual data to support their assertions, have claimed this group is communist controlled or influenced. The FBI, of course, has not investigated the NCCC. (100-50869)

June 8, 1961

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Malone	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Ingram	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
 U. S. Department of Justice  
 Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I have been asked to appear on a panel at a church Bible school next Friday night. One question to be answered is "How has or how could Communism get into our American churches?"

A very short but interesting article recently appeared in the newspaper mentioning that you have a representative on the road discussing this same question. I would like to have a copy of his talk, if available, or other pertinent information, also, any opinion you might have on the National Council of Churches.

I would also appreciate helpful information that might be used editorially or otherwise in our "Hanahan News", a small community newspaper reaching approximately 13,000 persons, [REDACTED]

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Yours very truly,

[REDACTED]

JUN 9 1961

EX-136  
 REC-9

684

JUN 9 1961

June 9, 1961

REC- 76

684

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter of June 4, 1961, with enclosure, has been received, and I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for affording me the benefit of your observations.

I regret that I am unable to be of assistance to you regarding the matter of your inquiry. In carrying out its investigative responsibilities, the FBI does not make evaluative nor draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, individual or publication. I hope that you will not infer in this connection either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the subject of your inquiry.

The quotations you refer to were made by me but as you may have noticed they were taken out of context. Our churches have been and will continue to be important targets in the over-all communist program of endeavoring to control all established institutions. The communists have tried to infiltrate every part of our society and Americans must continue to take a firm stand against communism and combat it wherever possible. But this opposition to communism must be careful, constructive and positive, and it must always be kept within the due process of law. In view of your concern, I am enclosing some material on the subject of communism.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

JUN 9 1961  
COMM-FBI

Enclosures (4)  
What You Can Do To Fight Communism  
One Nation's Response to Communism

4-17-61 statement re internal security

Series from Christianity Today

JCH:geb (5)

SEE NOTE NEXT PAGE

JUN 10 10 18 AM '61

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

[REDACTED]

**NOTE: No information could be located in Bufiles identifiable with the correspondent. Correspondent enclosed a booklet entitled "The National Council of Churches Indicts Itself on 50 Counts of Treason to God and Country!" Dr. Billy James Hargis is the author of this booklet** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) includes in its membership the leading Protestant churches in the country. Various critics of the Council without access to factual data to support their assertions have claimed this group is communist controlled or influenced. The FBI, of course, has not investigated the NCCC. (100-50869) He vigorously opposes the NCCC. Sullivan to Belmont memo of 9-22-61 indicates that when a representative of the Bureau spoke before the Dallas Freedom Forum the Agent commented that Dr. Frederick C. Schwarz made several "pitches" for articles in a book he had written on communism. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(105-29989) The quotations Mrs. *LINZIE* refers to were taken from the Director's address before the 28th Annual Convention of the National Council of Catholic Women on November 9, 1956, at Chicago, Illinois, entitled "The Twin Enemies of Freedom", a copy of this speech is not being sent because it was made in 1956.

684

TRUE COPY

[REDACTED]  
June 4, 1961

Mr. J. E. Hoover:

Enclosed is a booklet I just finished reading. This booklet made a tremendous impact on me to say the least.

I am writing to you concerning some questions that have come up because of the book.

Is this booklet factual? Do you have any information about the author Billy James Hargis?

I specifically want to call your attention to Count #22 and quotes from you. Will you confirm or deny this article?

If these things are factual do you have anything that is new and up to date concerning the subject of the N. C. C.

Now I would also call your attention to the Christian Century Magazine May 31, 1961 issue. There are 3 (three) articles that disturb me particularly 11 on pp 692 - Arizona - Response 20 attacks. Conclusions I've drawn are the N. C. C. could be concerned with good works and still be socialistic. My question is How does it strengthen the faith. If it strengthens the faith good works will follow.

2) Extremist Schwarz. To me this just proves that there are anti-anti communists. I've recently heard that the Presbyterian Church is warning its members not to get involved with anti-Communists. This article does a lot to discredit Dr. Schwarz in the eyes of the ministers in our country. Now I would ask this, Has Dr. Schwarz been run out of Australia as the "Bum" this article suggests or is this just part of a tremendous propagana program.

3) PP 638 Christian Century Magazine Mr. Welch's messiahship. This article also discredits J. B. Mathews & Dr. Schwarz.

As a citizen I'm only looking for true facts. The articles in the Christian Century magazine only make it hard to believe the booklet enclosed.

REC- 76

684

I would certainly appreciate any help I can get to learn the facts, any information or documents concerning the above mentioned things would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mr. Tolson  
 Mr. Belmont  
 Mr. Mohr  
 Mr. Callahan  
 Mr. Conrad  
 Mr. DeLoach  
 Mr. Evans  
 Mr. Malone  
 Mr. Rosen  
 Mr. Sullivan  
 Mr. Tavel  
 Mr. Trotter  
 Tele. Room  
 Mr. Ingram  
 Miss Gandy

[REDACTED]

June 4, 1961

~~EXP. PROC.~~

JUN 5 1961

Mr J. E. Hoover:

Enclosed is a booklet I just finished reading. This booklet made a tremendous impact on me to say the least.

I am writing to you concerning some questions that have come up because of the book.

Is this booklet factual? Do you have any information about the author Billy James Hargis?

I specifically want to call your attention to Count # 22 and quotes from you. Will you confirm or deny this article?

If these things are factual do you have anything that is new and up to date concerning the subject of the N.C.C.

Now I would also call your attention to the Christian Century magazine May 31, 1961 issue. There are 3 (three) articles that disturb me particularly on pp 692 - Arizona - Response

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED  
 ENCLOSURE

6/6/61  
 NCF/jme

S. J.

~~RESPONSE~~

20 attacks. Conclusions I've made are the N.C. could be concerned with good works and still be socialistic. My question is how does it strengthen the faith. If it strengthens the faith good works will follow.

2) Extremist Schwarz. To me this just proves that there are anti-anti communists. I've recently heard that the Presbyterian Church is warning its members not to get involved with anti-Communists. This article does a lot to discredit Dr Schwarz in the eyes of the ministers in our country. Now I would ask this, Has Dr Schwarz been run out of Australia as the "Bum" this article suggests or is this just part of a tremendous propaganda program.

3) OP 638 Christian Century magazine on Mr Welch's messiahship. This article also discredits J.B. Mathews & Dr Schwarz. as a citizen I'm only looking for true facts. The article in the Christian Century magazine only make it hard to believe the booklet enclosed.

RECD. DETLOACH  
FBI  
JUN 5 4 38 PM '61  
INTERNAL SECURITY  
JUN 12 9 04 AM '61  
RECEIVED  
FBI

I would certainly appreciate any help  
I can get to learn the facts, any information  
or documents concerning the above  
mentioned things would be greatly  
appreciated.

Sincerely

[Redacted signature]

1952 2-24-51

100  
RECEIVED

1952 2-24-51



June 11, 1951

REC-76

EX-138

683/

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

JUN 11 1951

I have received your letter of June 4, and the interest which prompted you to write is appreciated.

The aims and purposes of the Communist Party as we know them certainly indicate that the Party would favor the abolition of the House Committee on Un-American Activities. The Committee's chief concern is to identify and remove from the nation the forces of the American Communist Party and its agents.

The film, "Operation Abolition," is prepared and distributed by the House Committee and this Bureau has no connection with its preparation. Consequently, I am unable to comment regarding it; however, you may desire to direct your inquiry to the Committee which is located in Room 303, 225 North Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C.

While this Bureau does not have available any information that is related to the subject in which you are interested, I am including herewith information regarding communists which you will find of interest.

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
  - Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
  - Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
  - Nease \_\_\_\_\_
  - Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
  - Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
  - DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
  - Evans \_\_\_\_\_
  - Malone \_\_\_\_\_
  - Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
  - Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
  - W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
  - Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
  - Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
  - Gandy \_\_\_\_\_
- Enclosures (3)
- Communism: The Bitter Enemy of Religion
- Director's Statement Re Internal Security 4-17-51
- Series from "Christianity Today"
- Introduction 3-30 4ED & 17th Natl Convention CP USA (see next page)

CJH:geb  
( )

NOTE: Bufiles contain no derogatory information regarding correspondent, with whom we have had no prior correspondence.

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

Letter to [REDACTED]

6-15-61

**NOTE continued:**

The National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) includes in its membership the leading Protestant churches in the country. Various critics of the Council, without access to factual data to support their assertions, have claimed this group is communist controlled or influenced. The FBI, of course, has not investigated the NCCC. (100-50869)

[REDACTED]

JUNE 24, 1951

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of June 14, 1951, regarding the matter of  
certain individuals who are active in the Communist Party in  
the United States in the development of the Communist Party  
in the United States.

The Department is advised to report the activities of  
the Communist Party of the United States of America, which is  
critical of the United States Government, and the  
activities of the Communist Party of the United States of  
America, which is directly related with the subject matter  
of this document, and the activities of the Communist Party  
of the United States.

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]

REC-76

EX - 136

JUN 28 1951



**ST. MARK'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
*Fairfield at Rutherford*  
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

June 6, 1961

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Malone	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Ingram	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

CHURCH OFFICE  
908 Rutherford  
Tel. University 5-1457

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Department of Justice  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

This will advise you that under separate cover, six complete copies of the St. Mark's Vestry report on the National Council of Churches of Christ in America are being sent to you to read.

All of us here express our genuine gratitude for the way you have dispatched your duties through the years as Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Faithfully yours,

[Redacted signature block]

35  
JUN 7 1961

REC-83

501-1-122

June 12, 1961

REC-9

100-101681

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

I have received your letter of June 2 and do appreciate the interest which prompted your communication.

It is always pleasing to hear from citizens who demonstrate an awareness of the problem of communism and a sincere desire to prepare themselves to meet this challenge to our freedoms. A broad knowledge of the objectives and operations of the communist movement is essential if the American people are to effectively resist its eroding influences. My book was written in the hope that it would become a primer for those interested in learning the true nature of this evil conspiracy, and I am pleased to learn that you are finding it to be of value in your studies. I am enclosing some material on the subject of communism which you may like to read.

With respect to your inquiry, information in FBI files must be maintained as confidential pursuant to regulations of the Department of Justice. I regret that I am unable to be of service and hope you will not infer in this connection either that we do or do not have the specific data you requested.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 25  
JUN 12 1961  
COMM-FBI

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Evans \_\_\_\_\_
- Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosures (4) What You Can Do To Fight Communism  
Communist Illusion and Democratic Reality

4-17-61 statement re internal security Series from "Christianity Today"

NOTE: No record could be located in Bufiles concerning correspondent.

Fraternal salutation and closing not being used since he did not use them.

Free translation of his last remark, "Fiat Lux, means seek for

JUN 15 4 42 PM '61

Handwritten notes and stamps, including "100-101681-100" and "6/12/61".

6-9-61

**NOTE CONTINUED. . . The National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) includes in its membership the leading Protestant churches in the country. Various critics of the Council, without access to factual data to support their assertions, have claimed this group is communist controlled or influenced. The FBI, of course, has not investigated the NCCC. (100-50869)**

TRUE COPY

[REDACTED]

June 2, 1961

Mr. John Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Am at this time in the process of reading your book entitled, "Masters of Deceit" and find it most interesting. Also am a member of the Masonic Fraternity, being a 32<sup>o</sup> mason so am most intrusted in becoming enlightened on ways and means of upsitting the communist regime in America. ✓

Would appreciate any official documents regarding communism and its affiliates, such as communists in churches, businesses, corporations and schools or as a matter of fact in all walks of life. How we are able to distinguish their actions in the above organizations and the due process to follow to upset their world domination plans.

I have been told there is communism in some of our churches here in America if so, what churches are communist inspired and what church leaders belong to the party.

Have many more questions in regards to the above but you as a Masonic brother probably know best that for which I seek, Fiat Lux,

Most Sincerely yours,  
[REDACTED]



Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

June 2, 1961

Mr. John Edgar Hoover  
 Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 U.S. Department of Justice  
 Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Sir:

One at this time in the process of reading your book entitled "Masters of Deceit" and find it most interesting. Also in a number of the "Masonic Fraternity, King's 32" Mason is an most interested in becoming enlightened on ways and means of defeating the Communist regime in America.

Would appreciate any official documents regarding Communism and its affiliates, such as Communists, churches, businesses, organizations and schools as well as matter of fact in all works of life. You are able to distinguish their actions in the state.

REC-9

100-971681

JUN 6 1961

CRIME RESEARCH



REC-9

100-50869 680

June 9, 1961

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter of May 31, 1961, with enclosures, has been received. I appreciate your interest in giving me the benefit of your observations, and I welcome the opportunity to clarify our position with respect to this matter.

JUN 9 11 15 PM '61

Our churches have been and will continue to be important targets in the over-all communist program of endeavoring to infiltrate our established institutions, and we must remain alert to such efforts to subvert our way of life. The communists have tried to infiltrate every part of our society, and patriotic Americans must continue to take a firm stand against communism and combat it wherever possible. But this opposition to communism must be careful, constructive and positive, and it must always be kept within the due process of law. In reference to Mr. Cassels' article, Assistant Director William C. Sullivan in his discussion of communism dealt with this subject with all possible objectivity, candor and accuracy.

I am returning your enclosure as you requested, and I am also sending you some material on the subject of communism which may be of interest.

MAILED 30  
JUN 10 1961  
COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Enclosures (4)

Correspondent's enclosure

(see next page)

Communism and Religion by William C. Sullivan

Series from "Christianity Today" Introduction 3-60LEB & 17th Natl Convention CP, USA. CJH:js (3)

JUN 29 1961

- Tolson
- Parsons
- Mohr
- Belmont
- Callahan
- Conrad
- DeLoach
- Evans
- Malone
- Rosen
- Trotter
- Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

JUN 15 1961 TELETYPE UNIT

Letter to [REDACTED]

**NOTE:** Bufiles contain no information identifiable with correspondent. He enclosed a newspaper clipping of Louis Cassels' recent article together with his own card identifying him as a member of the National Counter Subversive Activities Committee of The American Legion.

PLEASE REFER THIS  
MATTER WITH REPLY  
[REDACTED]  
NATIONAL AMERICAN  
LEGION COUNTER SUBVERSIVE  
COMMITTEE  
[REDACTED]

NOV 31, 1951

MR. EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR F.B.I.  
WASHINGTON D.C.

DEAR SIR:

2581

AS ONE OF THE HEROES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST SUBVERSIVES OF  
ALL KINDS, AS ONE OF THE ANTI-COMMUNISTS OR SUPER-PATRIOTS,  
THE ISRAELI, LEFT-WINGERS, FELLOW TRAVELERS, AND SO MANY  
OTHER THINGS, I AM TAKING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WRITE, AND I  
WISH TO SAY, TO YOUR ORGANIZATION THIS MATTER BEING COVERED  
IN THIS FORM. I KNOW THEY ARE IN OUR CATCHES AND OUR SCHOOLS,  
AND I AM SURE YOU ALSO ARE AWARE OF IT.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IS A POWERFUL GROUP  
AND THE GROUP IS ENOUGH TO FACT THAT THEY ARE IN THE  
SCHOOLS AS WELL AS THE SCHOOLS. ALL THE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS  
THAT ARE PARTS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES,  
HAVE MEMBERS AND ARE AWARE OF THIS AND ARE TRYING TO PRO-  
DUCE TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. ONLY THE AMERICAN LEGION,  
IS IN THE FIGHT, BUT IS ALSO NOT SUCH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AS  
THE KIMBIS, AND ROTARY CLUBS. THEY ARE MOSTLY WORKING WITH  
THE CHURCHES, AND ARE PUTTING ON YOUTH RALLIES AND HAVING THEM  
AND ARE DEDICATED FIGHTERS AS SEPARATE.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, HAVE NO REAL PROGRAM IN AND  
THEIR CONVENTIONS, THEY DO HAVE RESOLUTIONS, BUT SO THOUGH  
THEY ARE ALWAYS ATTACKING THOSE WHOSE THEM SUBVERSIVES, THE  
HIGH IS ALWAYS AS A BELIEVER IN CHURCH, THEY ARE FIGHTING THE  
COMMUNIST HERESY. IF YOU THINK THIS ORGANIZATION IS NOT POSIT-  
IVE, JUST LOOK AT THE PROBLEMS THAT WAS BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THE

ENCLOSURE


A RECENT MANUAL, REGARDING THE FACT THAT THESE KIND OF THINGS  
IN THE CHURCHES. IT WAS REMOVED AS YOU ARE PROBABLY AWARE.  
AS TRUE AS THIS ARTICLE STATES, THE COMMUNISTS WOULD BE TRYING  
TO FIGHTING AMONG OURSELVES AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE US SAY THAT  
OUR CHURCHES ARE NOT ABOVE HAVING SUBVERSIVES IN OUR CHURCHES  
ACTING UP, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN, THE COMMUNISTS WILL GO ON TO  
ATTEND TO IMPURE OUR CHURCHES, ONLY THE OTHER SIDE OF THE  
REPORT TO RECOGNIZE THE DANGER.

(2)

organizations and he does wish to  
allow to report their work dominion  
plans.

I have been told there is communica-  
tion some of our churches here in America  
if so, what churches are communist inspired  
and what church leaders belong to the  
party.

Have many more questions in regards  
to the above but you as a witness  
rather probably know best, that is  
which I seek, First Love,

Yours Sincerely,  


CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

Your letter of May 24, 1961, has been received and the concern prompting your communication is being reviewed. In response to your inquiry, the Federal Bureau of Investigation does not extend to making evaluations or drawing conclusions as to the character or integrity of any publication, or the activities of any member of the Bureau, or the activities of any organization you mentioned.

It is to be noted that the Federal Bureau of Investigation does not take this opportunity to comment on the content of any publication, or the activities of any member of the Bureau, or the activities of any organization you mentioned.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation does not take this opportunity to comment on the content of any publication, or the activities of any member of the Bureau, or the activities of any organization you mentioned.

Very truly yours,  
Director

June 7, 1961

**NOTE continued:**

The National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) includes in its membership the leading Protestant churches in the country. Various critics of the Council, without access to factual data to support their assertions, have claimed this group is communist controlled or influenced. The FBI, of course, has not investigated the NCCC. (100-50869)

TRUE COPY

[REDACTED]  
May 30 - 1961..

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I have been unable to learn the truth of the statement that you had said that the National Council of Churches was infiltrated with Communist. I am most concerned as I have heard that statement made by speakers of colleges and it is being made in many High school commencement exercises. I belong to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and we support the Council and the President of the National Council is a member of our brotherhood. I would appreciate it very much if you could give me some information on this matter.

I just finished reading your book "Masters of Deceit" every American should read it. I would like to thank you for all you have done for America and may God bless you in your work.

Thank You

/s/ [REDACTED]

REC-96

678 8-24

Your work  
Thank you

██████████  
██████████  
██████████

RECEIVED  
JAN 8 4 16 PM '61  
COMMUNICATIONS  
FBI

REC'D DE LOACH  
F B I  
JAN 8 8 25 AM '61

JAN 9 11 42 AM '61

RECEIVED  
JAN 9 1 46 PM '61  
MR. JONES

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

F B I

JAN 7 12 53 PM '61

REC'D BELMONT  
FBI - PHOENIX

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR  
FBI

DIRECTOR  
6-271



[Redacted]

May 30 - 1

EXP. PR

JUN 2 196

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

Dear Mr. Hoover

I have been unable to locate the statement that you said was in the National Archives. I am most concerned as I have heard that statement made by speakers of colleges and it is being made in many high school communities throughout the country. The method through which it was suggested to me and the President of the National Council is a matter of great importance. I would appreciate any information you could give me regarding this matter.

I just finished reading your book "Masters of Deceit" and I am sure you would read it. I would like to thank you for all you have done for America and the world.

678

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 6-2-61

FROM : M. A. Jones *7*

SUBJECT: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE  
CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Belmont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mohr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Callahan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conrad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DeLoach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Evans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Malone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rosen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sullivan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tavel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trotter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ingram	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gandy	<input type="checkbox"/>

## SYNOPSIS

Vestry Committee of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Shreveport, Louisiana, has prepared well-documented report concerning National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCCCA). This is very critical of NCCCA and contains a resolution by the Church Vestry that the Protestant Episcopal Church should withdraw from the NCCCA.

Vestry Committee's report criticizes NCCCA for speaking out, as the official voice of Protestantism in America, on controversial issues such as the seating of Red China in the United Nations. It states that NCCCA, "although not communistic, has been an aid to the communist conspiracy." (underlining added) Among NCCCA pronouncements and activities which the report berates is a pamphlet entitled "The Negro American--A Reading List" published by the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations of the NCCCA which lists books by W. E. B. DuBois, Herbert Aptheker and others of their ilk.

Vestry Committee's report contains references to FBI and Director indicating Committee holds Bureau in high esteem. Among specific items cited by Vestry Committee to substantiate its opposition to NCCCA are remarks last December by Dr. Joseph B. Hunter of Little Rock, who is affiliated with NCCCA, that "the FBI is just a secret police network which infringes on the individual rights of man."

Copy of Vestry Committee's report and copy of transcript of conference between Committee and Dr. J. Quinter Miller of NCCCA are attached.

## RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

JUN 8 1961

## Enclosures

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
  - 1 - Mr. Belmont
  - 1 - Mr. Sullivan
  - 1 - Central Research Section
- GWG:par (8)

Jones to DeLoach Memo  
RE: NCCCA

DETAILS

In an envelope postmarked May 29, 1961, and bearing the return address of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Shreveport, Louisiana, the Bureau has received copies of a booklet concerning the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCCCA). This booklet, which is most critical of the NCCCA, consists of a well-documented report concerning the NCCCA by a Vestry Committee of St. Mark's Church.

Review of this booklet reveals that the Vestry Committee obviously devoted a great deal of time, energy and funds to its study of the NCCCA. Based upon the Committee's findings, the Vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church adopted a resolution on April 21, 1961, that "the Bishop of Louisiana be and he is hereby petitioned immediately to take such steps as may be necessary and expedient to cause the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America to withdraw from The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States."

HIGH LIGHTS OF THE VESTRY COMMITTEE'S FINDINGS

(1) On page 1, the report (copy attached) states, "The NCCCA has done and is doing a great number of things that we feel are not in the best interest of the Church. We have proved beyond a reasonable doubt that it has made a practice of speaking on behalf of all members of the 34 denominations comprising the NCCCA, when it is in fact not specifically authorized to do so. In this regard, it has been deceitful, in that it actually did desire the impression to be made on the public that it spoke officially for 'the 39 million' (39 million members of the 34 denominations comprising the NCCCA).

"The NCCCA has far exceeded its rightful role in speaking out, as the official voice of Protestantism in America, on such controversial issues as federal aid to education, the right-to-work laws, the ethical considerations of the steel dispute, the seating of Red China in the United Nations, etc.

"The NCCCA, although not communistic, has been an aid to the communist conspiracy." (underlining added)

Jones to DeLoach Memo  
RE: NCCCA

(2) On page 2, the Vestry Committee sums up its findings with the conclusion that "the National Council of Churches as it is presently constituted and operated, is a harmful and highly dangerous institution."

#### ISSUE OF COMMUNISM

On pages 10 and 11, the Vestry Committee reports that it could find no instance where "any responsible person" has accused the NCCCA of being a communist front or of having communists in executive or administrative posts-- "But there is room for discussion of the extent to which activities or Pronouncements of the NCCCA or of high officials within it may have paralleled propaganda of the communists."

The report is particularly critical of Dr. Edwin T. Dahlberg, immediate past president of the NCCCA, "who has been attacked most strongly as furthering causes which the Communists wish furthered."

In criticising the NCCCA's position regarding Red China, the report states, "When the National Council's World Order Study Conference in Cleveland in 1956 recommended recognition of Red China by the United States and inclusion of it in the United Nations, the Committee of One Million Against the Admission of Communist China to the United Nations conducted a poll of Protestant clergymen throughout the nation. . . . More than 8,000 Protestant clergymen responded to this poll by mail. Of this total, 87 per cent opposed both admission of Red China to United Nations and recognition by the United States. Only 11 per cent were in favor. Two per cent favored recognition but opposed admission, or vice versa, or said they could not make up their minds."

The Vestry Committee also cites the anti-HCUA attitude openly displayed by members of the NCCCA; and it deals very critically with a pamphlet entitled "The Negro American--A Reading List" published by the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations of the NCCCA which lists books by W. E. B. DuBois, Herbert Aptheker and others of that ilk.

#### SEVERAL REFERENCES TO FBI AND DIRECTOR

Throughout the booklet, there are several references to the FBI and the Director which disclose that the Vestry Committee holds the Bureau in high esteem. In addition, "Masters of Deceit" is favorably quoted.

Jones to DeLoach Memo  
RE: NCCCA

As part of the material to substantiate its opposition to the NCCCA, the Vestry Committee has cited a newspaper article published last December in which Dr. Joseph B. Hunter of Little Rock (who is affiliated with the NCCCA) was quoted saying, "I think the FBI and the House Committee on Un-American Activities got together and subpoenaed a group of persons, hired a film company and then went out to San Francisco to make a propaganda movie ("Operation Abolition") in an effort to help the HCUA get their financial appropriations next month from Congress.... After all, the FBI is just a secret police network which infringes on the individual rights of man."

INFORMATION IN BUFILES:

Bufiles reflect that [redacted] of St. Mark's Episcopal Church [redacted] sent the Director a mimeographed copy of the Vestry Committee's report last month and offered to send printed copies when they were available. [redacted] asked the Director to send his comments concerning the report; however, in his reply dated May 16, 1961, the Director advised [redacted] that in view of his FBI position it would be improper for him to comment regarding the Vestry Committee's report.

In addition to a copy of the Vestry Committee's report, there also is attached a printed transcript of the conference between the Vestry Committee and Dr. J. Quinter Miller of the NCCCA in Shreveport last February.

REC-65

JUN 25 PM '61  
FBI  
COMM-FBI

[REDACTED]

I have received your letter of May 10, 1961, with enclosure. Your concern about our program is understandable and your desire to acquire additional knowledge regarding the nature of this menace is reassuring.

The FBI, as an investigative agency, does not furnish comments or evaluations concerning the character or integrity of any individual, organization or publication. Therefore, it is not possible for me to be of service to you in connection with the organization you mentioned. I assure you you will not infer either that we do or do not have data on our files regarding it. I am unable to advise you where to obtain such information. You may desire to refer to my book, "Masters of Deceit," where, on pages 324 through 336, you will find a discussion concerning communist efforts to infiltrate our churches.

The film, "The Infiltration," was prepared and distributed by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, and this is unrelated to its preparation. As a matter of policy, therefore, I am unable to make any comment regarding it.

I am enclosing a list of the organizations which have been cited by the Department of Justice pursuant to Executive Order 10459, together with some other material which may be of assistance to you. I am also returning your enclosure as you requested.

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Walters \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Evans \_\_\_\_\_
- Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MAILED 25  
F. B. I.  
COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

(See List of Enclosures and NOTE next page)

Enclosures (4)

CJH:sh (3)

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

Letter to [REDACTED]

Enclosures (4)

Correspondent's enclosure

Attorney General's list

Communism: The Bitter Enemy of Religion

The Communist Menace: Red Goals and Christian Ideals

NOTE: Bufiles contain no information identifiable with correspondent. He enclosed a clipping of a letter he had written to the Editor of a newspaper, the substance of which was the need for belief in religion as a deterrent to communism. The clipping contained a typewritten notation requesting its return. The National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) includes in its membership the leading Protestant churches in the country. Various critics of the Council, without access to factual data to support their assertions, have claimed this group is communist controlled or influenced. The FBI, of course, has not investigated the NCCC.

May 26, 1961

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Evans	
Mr. Malone	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Ingram	
Miss Gandy	

Director J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir,

I write this letter that I might increase my knowledge concerning the Communist lie that I might better serve both God and Country. I am most alarmed at the very evident infiltration of Communism now so deeply entrenched within our society. I believe that the last bulwark of freedom, unconquerable, by the "Masters of Deceit" is the Church of Christ with its message of brotherly love. I do not know if such is your personal conviction but I do know that our freedom is drawing to a rapid close unless the people of this great United States wake. Materialism, apathy, moral decay promoted by a dwindling of genuine spiritual conviction, all this, now washed in the ever increasing atheistic Communist deceit has walked us to the very brink of disaster.

A young person of twentyone (just a few years younger than myself) recently said that I was an alarmist and that Communism would never hold reign in these United States. A prominent business man of Boston said, during a conversation, "Maybe the Communists are right". If to tell the truth is to be an alarmist then let us pray for more, for it seems that we have reached such a composure of contented indifference that it will take a shock to arise many. To work, to speak with any authority, to convince, one must have at his command more than enthusiasm or purpose, one must have a knowledge of the facts. To this end I write the following

ENCLOSURE or information.

(1) Where might I gain information concerning the infiltration of the Christian Church. A book I procured from the American Legion

EX-100

REC-65 100-50869-67

20 MAY 31 1961

CORRESPONDENCE

6-4-61



entitled, "The Truth about the Foreign Policy Association" strongly sets forth the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States as an organization riddled with Communism. In particular it points out a pamphlet, published by the NCC entitled, "The Negro American" as a book list heavily dosed with Communism's deceit. Is it possible for me to get material, in detailed form, concerning the NCC? How and where might I obtain information concerning local penetration both at Church and governmental levels? I would like information concerning Church penetration throughout the United States - if possible.

(2) Does a list of subversive organizations exist such as one signs when entering the service? If so how might I obtain such?

(3) What is your opinion concerning the film "Operation Abolition"? I recently attended a showing of such in Rockland Massachusetts. I thought that there was little to be controversial in it. It merely showed actual filmings in the courthouse and it was all too evident what started and fed the riots. When the showing of the film had finished, a minister, who had vigorously opposed the showing of the film as the head of the Rockland area Council of Churches, blasted the film with a golden oratory. He called it a distortion of the truth and even used parts of Patrick Henry's famous speech. I had never heard a Communist. I do not know whether he was genuine or not but if I ever expected to hear one speak against the film he did it as I had imagined. I am by no means accusing him of being a Communist but what he said was little <sup>like</sup> his oratory was most convincing.

I send a copy of a letter which was printed in a local paper not to long ago. I send it that you might know I am most genuine in my zeal but I need knowledge to fight. Thank You for any time or information in my behalf.

Sincerely



June 5 1961

675

REC-90

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter of May 26, 1961, has been received, and the interest which prompted you to write is appreciated.

Although I would like to be of service, the FBI is an investigative agency of the Federal Government and, as such, does not make evaluations nor draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. I regret that I am unable to help you and hope that you will not infer in this connection either that we do or that we do not have data in our files relating to the subject of your inquiry. In view of your interest in the accuracy of a document published by another governmental agency it is suggested you may desire to direct your request to The Honorable, The Secretary of the Air Force, Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosed is some literature dealing with the general subject of communism which may be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
Director

Enclosures (4)

Director's Statement Re Internal Security, 4-17-61  
Communism: The Bitter Enemy Of Religion  
Communist Illusion And Democratic Reality  
Three-part series on Christianity Today

NOTE: In view of the commonness of correspondent's name, only subversive references in the locality of Michigan were reviewed. On the basis of these

(continued on next page)

EFT:lmv

(3)

JUN 5 4 29 PM '61

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
FILED



**NOTE CONTINUED:**

references, no identifiable information was located in Bufiles. Correspondent has reference to a training manual issued by Air Force in 1-60, which was critical of the NCCC. The National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) includes in its membership the leading Protestant churches in the country. Various critics of the Council, without access to factual data to support their assertions, have claimed this group is communist controlled or influenced. The FBI, of course, has not investigated the NCCC. (100-50869)

May 25, 1961

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

% Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C.

Dear sir:

I am becoming increasingly interested in fighting the Communist menace. I have recently become interested in studying the National Council of Churches, of which my church is a member. I would appreciate it very much if you would send me information relative to the degree of infiltration in this group. I am especially interested in a comment as to the degree of accuracy of the Air Force manual which placed a documented finger of doubt on the N. C. C.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

EX-116

REC-90

MAY 27 1961

675

COPY TO [REDACTED]

REC-46

674

June 5, 1961

JUN 7 5 27 PM '61

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter of May 26, with enclosures, has been received.

Our churches have been and will continue to be important targets in the over-all communist program of endeavoring to infiltrate our established institutions, and we must remain alert to such efforts to subvert our way of life. The communists have tried to exert their influence in every part of our society, and I agree with you wholeheartedly that patriotic Americans must continue to take a firm stand against communism and combat it wherever possible. But this opposition to communism must be careful, constructive and positive, and it must always be kept within the due process of law. In reference to Mr. Cassels' article, Assistant Director William C. Sullivan in his discussion of communism dealt with this subject with all possible objectivity, candor and accuracy. On pages 324 through 326 of my book, "Masters of Deceit," you will find a full discussion of this matter.

Enclosed is one of my recent statements about the communist menace which you may find of interest.

Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

MAIL ROOM  
COMM-FBI

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Evans \_\_\_\_\_
- Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosure  
4-17-61 Statement on Internal Security

1 - Mr. William C. Sullivan - Enclosure

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of correspondent.

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

JMM:dkp (4)

TRUE COPY

[REDACTED]

May 26, 1961

J. Edgar Hoover, Director F. B. I.

Dear Sir:

The inclosed clippings should tell you something.

Chief Inspector Wm. C. Sullivan says infiltration in the churches is not true.

The pamphlet from Austin Texas proves that he is wrong Also the record of the National Council of churches seems to follow the communist line, that also proves that he is wrong.

How can he have your full approval when he is so at variance with other statements in Masters of Deceit.

The communists are not stupid. Why would they neglect to infiltrate the churches. --Send their bright young men thru seminary, just as in Russia?

Sincerely,

/s/ [REDACTED]

EX-110

REC-4F

674

JUN 2 1961

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Malone	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Ingram	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

May 26

J. Edgar Hoover, Director  
Dear Sir:

The enclosed clippings & tell you something.

Chief Inspector Wm. P. Sullivan says infiltration in the church is not true.

The pamphlet from Austin Texas proves that he is wrong. Also the record of the District Council of Clermont seems to follow the Communist line. It also proves that he is wrong.

EXP. PROC.

MAY 29 1961

How can he give your full approval when he is so at variance with other statements in Director of Secret.

The Communists are wondering why would they neglect to infiltrate the churches. - Surely their bright young men there seminary. Just as in Russia?

ENCLOSURE

[Redacted]

REC-94

June 2, 1961

1-50-111-673

EX-116

[Redacted]

JUN 7 2 35 PM '61

Dear [Redacted]

I have received your letter of May 25, with enclosure, and the interest which prompted you to communicate with me on this occasion is appreciated.

While I do wish it were possible to be of assistance, a long-standing policy of not furnishing evaluations or conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual will preclude my complying with your wishes on this occasion. I do hope you will understand the difficulties involved.

Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

*[Handwritten signature]*

MAILED 31  
JUN - 13 1961  
COMM-FBI

NOTE: [Redacted] is on the Special Correspondents' List. His enclosure is a resolution which instructs the National Council of Churches of Christ to desist from engaging in areas contrary to their constitution and to refrain from giving the impression that they speak for constituted bodies or individual members of their Council. The National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) includes in its membership the leading Protestant churches in the country. Various critics of the Council, without access to factual data to support their assertions, have claimed this group is communist controlled or influenced. The FBI, of course, has not investigated the NCCC.

(100-50869)

JMM:cah  
(3)

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Evans \_\_\_\_\_
- Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT



J. Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:-

The attached resolution was presented to the convention of the Board of Long Island on March 16th, 1961.

Unfortunately, the resolution was reported out of committee with a motion to lay it upon the table, which is not debatable. The motion to lay upon the table was passed by a substantial voice vote.

Since we are planning on reintroducing it in the 1962 convention, I would be interested in knowing any comments that you might have as to your personal feelings on the resolution, or to its accuracy. If we may be permitted to use your letter publicly, we would desire to do so, but we shall not without your permission.

Sincerely yours,

[Redacted signature]

EX-116

REC-94

JUN 5 1961

673

1961

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Mr. Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

EX-116-PROG

MAY 29 1961

COPIES ATTACHED

1 - Mr. Gutley

June 1, 1961

EX-114

REC-96

672

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter dated May 23, 1961, and the interest which prompted your communicating with me is appreciated.

While I would like to be of service, the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the FBI do not extend to furnishing evaluations or comments concerning the character or integrity of any individual, organization, or publication. In keeping with this policy, therefore, I cannot comment upon the organizations mentioned in your letter. However, you should not infer that our files do or do not contain information concerning them.

In view of your interest in the internal security of the United States, I am enclosing two items of literature.

Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 9  
JUN 1 1961  
COMM-FBI

Enclosures - 2

NOTE ON YELLOW:

The World Council of Churches is allegedly composed of most of the Christian churches throughout the world except the Roman Catholic Church and certain small sects. Bufiles contain no identifiable information of a derogatory nature concerning this organization. (100-231551)

LTG:dew  
(3)

NOTE CONTINUED PAGE TWO

56 JUN 7 1961

JUN 1 12 53 PM '61

- \_\_\_\_\_ Tolson
- \_\_\_\_\_ Casper
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mohr
- \_\_\_\_\_ Belmont
- \_\_\_\_\_ Callahan
- \_\_\_\_\_ Conrad
- \_\_\_\_\_ DeLoach
- \_\_\_\_\_ Evans
- \_\_\_\_\_ Malone
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rosen
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tavel
- \_\_\_\_\_ Trotter
- \_\_\_\_\_ W.C. Sullivan
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tele. Room
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ingram
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gandy

NOTE ON YELLOW CONTINUED:

The National Council of the Churches of Christ has not been investigated by the Bureau. We have kept abreast of the efforts of the Communist Party (CP) to infiltrate it through our over-all investigation of the CPUSA. It does not appear that the policies of this organization are being dictated by the CP. (100-50869)

Bufiles contain no identifiable references to correspondent.

The following items of literature were sent to correspondent:

1. "What You Can Do to Fight Communism and Preserve America"
2. The Director's statement on Internal Security 4-17-61

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Malone	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Ingram	
Miss Gandy	

*infidre*

34

~~EX-100~~

MAY 26 1961

100

67

May 23, 1961

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Evans	
Mr. Malone	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Ingram	
Miss Gandy	

*44*

J. Edgar Hoover  
 Director  
 Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Director Hoover:

I have just completed your book, MASTERS OF DECEIT, and found it very informative and enlightening on communism and how it works here in the United States.

As a teacher, homemaker, and active church member, I have a question that I feel is very important to my family, city, state, and country. I would like to know if and how much the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches is infiltrated. If they are as infiltrated as I have read, why is it not a known fact to all Christians who support it unknowingly? Many people in the churches have been told or read that these organizations are communistic but have no proof. We need proof before we can take any action. Is there any publication or information that you or your office would recommend as proof of infiltration of these two organizations? It seems to me that support of a communistic organization is a crime against God and country. We do support the NCC and as far as I know the WCC. The people should know if these organizations are infiltrated and to what extent. I feel confident that I am asking the right person or persons, by writing this letter and will be anxious for an answer in the very near future.

*Briffen*

34  
 MAY 25 1961  
 100-50869-67

Thanking you for your trouble, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Redacted signature]

JUN 2 1961

EX-114

REC-96 100-50869-67

*ack (enir)  
 6/1/61  
 LT G/dew*

*Solo*

EX 101

5-27-61

PLAIN TEXT

TELEGRAM

DEFERRED - COLLECT

REC-9

671



YOUR WIRE OF TODAY RECEIVED. FBI IS INVESTIGATIVE AGENCY.  
 DOES NOT MAKE EVALUATIONS NOR DRAW CONCLUSIONS AS TO  
 CHARACTER OR INTEGRITY OF ANY ORGANIZATION, PUBLICATION OR  
 INDIVIDUAL. THEREFORE, STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO ME NOT TRUE.  
 FOR SAME REASON CANNOT SUGGEST BOOK OF TYPE TO WHICH YOU  
 HAVE REFERRED.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of the correspondent. The National Council  
 of Churches of Christ (NCCC) includes in its membership the leading Protestant  
 churches in the country. Various critics of the Council, without access to  
 factual data to support their assertions, have claimed this group is communist  
 controlled or influenced. The FBI, of course, has not investigated the NCCC.  
 (100-50869)

JM:inv  
 (3)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
 COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
 MAY 27 1961

WESTERN UNION

COPIES DESTROYED

28 JAN 10 1974

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAY 27 1961  
WESTERN UNION

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Malone	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Gandy	_____

BI 002 185A EPT MAY 27 51 8A035 OAO14 LF759

L 18566 NL PM [REDACTED] 26

HONORABLE J EDGAR HOOVER

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHDC

I HAVE BEEN TOLD SEVERAL TIMES THAT YOU MADE THE STATEMENT  
THAT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES WAS NOT INFILTRATED BY  
THE COMMUNIST CONSPIRACY. PLEASE WIRE ME COLLECT TODAY IF THIS  
IS TRUE. ALSO COULD YOU ADVISE ME OF NAME OF BEST DOCUMENTED  
EVIDENCE REGARDING ACTIONS TAKEN BY NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

[REDACTED]

EX 101

REC-9

671

MAY 31 1961

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

REC-92

669

May 26, 1961

MAY 26 5 05 PM '61

READING ROOM

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of May 17, 1961, has been received, and the interest which prompted you to write is appreciated.

Although I would like to be of service, the FBI is an investigative agency of the Federal Government and, as such, does not make evaluations nor draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. I regret that I am unable to help you and hope you will not infer in this connection either that we do or that we do not have data in our files relating to your inquiry.

I am enclosing some literature dealing with the general subject of communism which may be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

*J. Edgar Hoover*

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Enclosures (3)

Statement 4/17/61

The Communist Menace: Red Goals and Christian Ideals  
God and Country or Communism?

NOTE: Bufiles indicate that by letter dated 11/25/60 correspondent was advised that she should feel free to write to the Director at any time or contact her local Field Office if she felt she had information of value. At this time she was forwarded communistic literature; however, different publications are currently being sent. The National Council of Churches

RWE:jrb

(3)

(Note continued on next page)

50 JUN 8 1961

Note Continued:

of Christ (NCCC) includes in its membership the leading Protestant churches in the country. Various critics of the Council, without access to factual data to support their assertions, have claimed this group is communist controlled or influenced. The FBI, of course, has not investigated the NCCC. (100-50869)



TRUE COPY

May 17, 1961

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Hoover,

Several months ago, I became aware of the Communist Menace and wrote you for information which you so kindly sent. There are so many articles written on the subject -- some so violently -- that I feel you are one of the only ones who can give me accurate information.

Most recently I was given a copy of your three articles written for Christianity Today, and I agree thoroughly that Christianity is our major weapon against Communism. My husband and I are parents of three young children, and we all support and attend our local Presbyterian Church. It is directed by and supports the National Council of Churches. This organization has come to our attention recently, and we are shocked to find an apparent infiltration of Communists.

Can you please help us? We sacrifice to support our Church and certainly don't want this money going to aid the course of Communism.

Thank you so much.

/s/

[REDACTED]

REC-94

17 MAY 21 1961

CONFERENCE

May 17, 1916

Dear Mr. Doan,

Several months ago I  
became aware of the  
opinion and would give you  
information which you  
kindly sent. There are  
many articles written  
the subject - some so  
violently - that I feel you  
are, the only ones who can  
give me accurate information

and I recently I  
gave a copy of your  
three articles written for  
Christianity Today, and I  
agree thoroughly with  
Christianity and our  
mission against Communism  
and I am  
proud of three young  
children and we all  
and attend our local

CORRESPONDENCE

10  
Presbyterian Church. It  
is directed by and supports  
the National Council of  
Churches. This organization  
has come to our attention  
recently, and we are  
shocked to find an  
apparent infiltration of  
Communists.

Can you please help  
us? We subscribed to  
support our Church and  
certainly don't want the  
money going to aid the  
Cause of Communism.

Thank you so much.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

F B I

Date: 5/25/61

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT  
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
 FROM : SAC, CINCINNATI (94-223)

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]  
 RESEARCH (CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS)  
 BUDED 5/29/61

Re Bureau airtel to Cincinnati, 5/22/61.

The captioned individual was contacted at her residence on 5/24/61, by SA [REDACTED] and informed in accordance with instructions in re airtel. [REDACTED] stated that the evangelist referred to in her letter to the Bureau dated 5/15/61, is the Reverend [REDACTED] and that she believes that he is the pastor of a church at [REDACTED]. She related that Reverend [REDACTED] recently conducted a ten day evangelistic meeting at the [REDACTED] Church in [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] was furnished with the reprints furnished as enclosures with re airtel. [REDACTED] expressed great admiration for Director HOOVER, and the work of the Bureau. She commented that she greatly appreciated the prompt attention received by her inquiry to the Bureau.

RUC

3-Bureau  
 2-Indianapolis (Enc. 3)  
 1-Cincinnati

MEC/EDM:blb  
 (6)

REC-94

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Agent in Charge

Office: There are attached hereto for the Indianapolis

1. A copy of Bureau airtel 5/22/61.
2. A copy of letter 5/15/61, from [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Indianapolis should:

1. Check their indices on the Reverend [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] If no information exists to the contrary,  
contact him and make it crystal clear that the FBI:
  - A. Does not comment concerning the character  
or integrity of any organization, publication,  
or individual.
  - B. Let him know that an unnamed person in Columbus,  
Ohio, attended an evangelistic meeting at the  
[REDACTED] Church in [REDACTED] and  
attributes to him the statement "Registered  
Communists are connected with our National  
Council of Churches" and that proof could be  
obtained from FBI in Washington, D. C.
  - C. Inform him that the FBI has made no comment  
concerning the National Council of Churches  
or any similar organization.
  - D. Furnish him the attached copy of the manuscript  
of Chief Inspector WILLIAM C. SULLIVAN entitled  
"Communism and Religion" dated 2/22/61. This  
document was approved by the Bureau. It  
contains the Director's sentiments, and was  
used as a basis for delivery by Mr. SULLIVAN  
to a meeting of approximately 1,000 clergymen  
on the date indicated in Cincinnati. Page  
5 should be of particular attention to him.

CI 94-223

- E. Correct his erroneous impression about alleged FBI statement and ask him to desist from such statements in the future.

If the Bureau has any objection to the proposed procedure, sutel Indianapolis, prior to commencement of business on 5/31/61.

5-22-61

REC-94 Airtel

667

To: SAC, Cincinnati

From: Director, FBI

RESEARCH (CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS)  
BUDED 5-29-61

MAY 22 12 PM '61

Enclosed are two copies of a letter dated 5-15-61 received from captioned individual. [redacted] is not identifiable in Bufiles, and she has been informed that she will be contacted immediately concerning the matters she mentioned.

An agent of your office should contact correspondent and inform her of the confidential nature of our files and our inability to comment concerning the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. The attached reprints can be given her. Secure the name of the evangelist to whom [redacted] referred and assure her that the FBI has not made any statement relative to the National Council of Churches of Christ or any other religious group. Advise the Bureau when action completed under same caption, your reply to be received no later than 5-29-61.

For your own information, the National Council of Churches of Christ includes in its membership the leading Protestant churches in the country. Various critics of the Council, without access to factual data to support their assertions, have claimed this group is communist controlled or infiltrated. The Bureau, of course, has not investigated the National Council of Churches of Christ.

Enclosures (7)

- 2 copies of incoming letter
- What You Can Do To Fight Communism
- Director's Statement re Internal Security 4-17-61
- Introduction 4-61 LEB
- Communist Illusion and Democratic Reality
- Series from Christianity Today
- Follow-up made for 5-29-61

DCL:mb (6)

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

REC-94

667

May 22, 1961

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter of May 15, 1961, has been received, and a Special Agent of our Cincinnati Office will contact you concerning the matters you mentioned.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

1 - Cincinnati  
See Buairtel 5-22-61

MAY 22 2 12 PM '61  
FBI

DCL:mb  
(4)

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Bishop
- Mr. Casper
- Mr. Callahan
- Mr. Conrad
- Mr. Felt
- Mr. Gale
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Sullivan
- Mr. Tavel
- Mr. Trotter
- Mr. Tele. Room
- Miss Holmes
- Miss Gandy

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT



[REDACTED]  
May 15, 1961

Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Recently, an evangelist spoke in our church regarding communism in the United States. He brought out the fact that registered Communists are connected with our National Council of Churches. We have had other literature regarding the Communistic statis of some of the officials in the National Council of Churches but our church members refuse to believe it. The above-mentioned evangelist stated that if we want proof, we should write to the FBI in Washington and that you would send us literature supporting these claims.

Will appreciate anything you might send that will assist a few of ur in opening the eyes of sleeping Christians who are sending their money to support the National Council of Churches. Thank you.

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
REC-51

CONFIDENTIAL

REC-7

666

May 24, 1961

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of May 19 has been received, and I do appreciate the interest prompting your communication.

While I would like to be of service to you, the FBI is an investigative agency of the Federal Government and neither makes evaluations nor draws conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. I regret that I am unable to help you and hope that you will not infer in this connection either that we do or that we do not have data in our files relating to the organization about which you inquired.

The film, "Operation Abolition," is sponsored and distributed by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, and the FBI had no connection with its preparation. As a matter of policy, therefore, I am unable to make any comment concerning it. May I suggest you direct your questions to the Committee which is located in Room 225, Old House Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

I am enclosing some material on the general subject of communism which you may like to read.

Enclosures (4) Sincerely yours, J. Edgar Hoover  
Communist Illusion and Democratic Reality  
April 1, 1961 LEB Intro  
April 17, 1961 Statement re Internal Security  
Series from "Christianity Today"

NOTE: [REDACTED] was not identifiable in Bufiles.

HHA:lcl (3)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Tolson
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parsons
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mohr
- \_\_\_\_\_ DeLoach
- \_\_\_\_\_ Casper
- \_\_\_\_\_ Callahan
- \_\_\_\_\_ Conrad
- \_\_\_\_\_ Felt
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gale
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rosen
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sullivan
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tavel
- \_\_\_\_\_ Trotter
- \_\_\_\_\_ W.C. Sullivan
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tele. Room
- \_\_\_\_\_ Holmes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gandy

REC'D - READING ROOM  
FBI  
MAY 24 5 44 PM '61

82 JUN 4 1961 TELETYPE UNIT

[REDACTED]

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Parsons	✓
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	✓
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Malone	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Ingram	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

*[Handwritten signature]*

... .. 1961

J. Edgar Hoover  
Director of F.B.I.  
Washington, D.C.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover:

First ... .. [REDACTED] ... ..  
... .. [REDACTED] ... .. [REDACTED] ... ..  
... .. [REDACTED] ... .. [REDACTED] ... ..  
... .. [REDACTED] ... .. [REDACTED] ... ..  
... .. [REDACTED] ... .. [REDACTED] ... ..  
... .. [REDACTED] ... .. [REDACTED] ... ..

It is ... .. the following ... ..  
... .. (a) ... ..  
... .. (b) ... ..  
... .. (c) ... ..  
... .. (d) ... ..

I ... .. to write ... ..  
... ..

All ... .. across ... ..  
... ..

I ... .. on the ... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..

EX-100-3

REC-7

666

Sincerely yours,

MAY 26 1961

[REDACTED]

EX-115

REC-92

May 19, 1961

100-100000-665

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of May 13, 1961, has been received. The interest which prompted you to write is indeed appreciated, and I welcome the opportunity to correct this interpretation of Chief Inspector William C. Sullivan's remarks.

I should like to emphasize that the communists have tried to infiltrate every segment of our society. Their efforts to destroy our form of government have been thwarted by our internal security program; the investigation, arrest and prosecution of a number of Communist Party functionaries; and the rising tide of public opposition to the communist movement. Our churches have been and will continue to be important targets in the over-all subversive program of endeavoring to control all mass-type organizations, and we must remain alert to any attempts to replace our national tradition with the atheistic philosophy of communism.

MAY 19 3 57 PM '61

I am thoroughly familiar with Mr. Sullivan's presentation of the true nature and objectives of communism. He treated the subject with all possible objectivity, candor and accuracy. Mr. Sullivan fully exposed the falseness of communist thought and practices, and he strongly emphasized their dangers.

I am enclosing some material which may be of assistance to you with respect to this problem.

Sincerely yours,

*J. Edgar Hoover*

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Enclosures (3) NEXT PAGE.

SEE NOTE NEXT PAGE

CJH:lc (3)

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

May 13, 1961

*CHP*  
Honorable J. Edgar Hoover  
Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Thank you for your reply to my last letter regarding the Communist Party. I was glad to have that information under your signature.

Another matter has arisen that has me quite perplexed and definitely bothered. It has to do with a speech made by Eugene Carson Blake in Los Angeles on May 9th. In his talk before the Los Angeles Presbytery Dr. Blake spoke of a Mr. Sullivan presumably sent out by your office to alert people against the various patriotic groups that are attempting to show the American people that the churches are being infiltrated by the communists. I cannot believe that this can be case inasmuch as you wrote of this infiltration in your very own book "Masters of Deceit." What is the truth on this matter? Many of us are very concerned at the alarming way in which the communist line is being promoted through many of the NCC churches and even some of the independent churches. I would greatly appreciate hearing from you regarding this.

Very sincerely,

NATIONAL COUNCIL  
OF CHURCHES

*ack 5-18-61*  
*CJH*

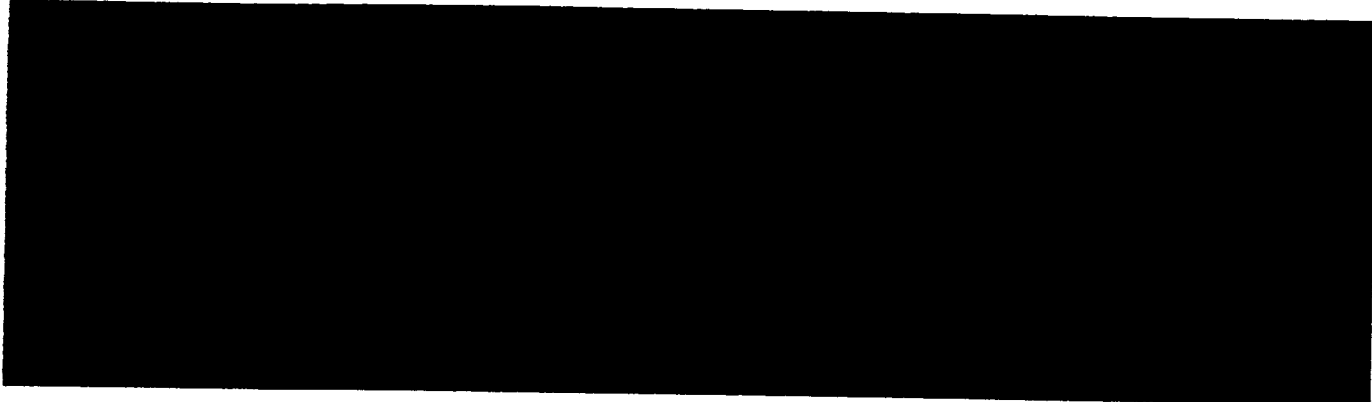
*50869*  
*(F)*

MAY 25 1961

EX-115

**Enclosures**  
**Communism and Religion**  
**Series in Christianity Today**  
**4-17-61 statement**

**NOTE:** Bufiles contain no derogatory information regarding correspondent, and we have had prior cordial correspondence with her. The National Council of Churches (NCCC) includes in its membership the leading Protestant churches in the country. Various critics of the Council, without access to factual data to support their assertions, have claimed this group is communist controlled and influenced. The FBI, of course, has not investigated the (NCCC).



ALBERT H. OLDHAM  
VERN L. OLDHAM  
P. F. BRUCKER  
PATENT AGENT

ALBERT H. OLDHAM & VERN L. OLDHAM  
PATENT & TRADE MARK LAW  
825 FIRST NATIONAL TOWER  
AKRON 8, OHIO

TELEPHONE PORTAGE 2-6417

CLEVELAND 14  
OFFICE  
124 SUPERIOR B  
PHONE SUPERIOR

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

May 19, 1961

National Council of Churches  
475 Riverside Drive  
New York 27, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

To the Akron, Ohio, Kiwanis Club, including me, the Police Department of the City of Akron has just shown the film "Operation Abolition" and played the tape of the Mayor of San Francisco's speech, both the film and tape concerned with the riots resulting from the hearings held in May, 1961, in San Francisco, by the Un-American Affairs Committee of the Congress of the United States.

I have also just read your booklet opposing the film as a distortion of the facts which occurred at the hearings.

As a member of the Church in Silver Lake, Ohio (Congregational) I am astounded and shocked by the position your Council has taken, and I am appalled at the flimsiness and technicalities of your arguments in the face of the utterly ruthless and snarlingly nasty Communist leadership of the riots.

Any violation of civil rights by the Un-American Affairs Committee, and there inevitably may be some, pales into utter insignificance in the face of the violations and total disregard for law and order undeniably exhibited by the ringleaders of the riots and the people participating therein.

Your position in this matter makes me think that you would stand by shouting about details of civil liberty at the trial of Christ while doing nothing to save Him from the cross.

Or, more factually stated, your position in this matter is like a home owner chasing the firemen off his yard for tramping flowers when they are trying to put out a serious fire in his own house.

EX 101

REC 11

MAY 23 1961

National Council of Churches

Page 2

May 19, 1961

I am asking the minister of our church, via a copy of this letter, whether or not our church pays anything to the support of your Council, and if it does, I shall make every effort to discontinue our church's support of such an inane, supercilious and weak-minded body. Are all of your actions typically represented by your action in the present situation?

I ask also in this letter that you send to me any material which you have available as to who you are, who you represent, how you are financed, and any other booklets such as your "Operations Abolition" stating the Council's views on any other subjects involving the welfare of this nation. I would like to believe that a body bearing your august name shows real intelligence in some matters.

I am sending a copy of this letter to our local Council of Churches with the express statement of my extreme distaste for the completely untenable and unjustified "holier-than-thou" position which your Council has taken relative to a very serious matter.

Very truly yours,

---

A. H. Oldham

AHO:je

cc: Summit County Council of Churches  
Rev. John Keefe, Church in Silver Lake  
J. Edgar Hoover, F.B.I., Washington, D. C.  
Congressman Francis E. Walter, House of Representatives,  
Washington, D. C.



EX-112

May 19, 1961

663

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter of May 12, 1961, has been received, and I can understand your concern about communism. The desire of you and your associates to become better informed regarding the nature of this menace is reassuring, and I appreciate your interest in "Masters of Deceit," which was intended as a basic text on this subject.

The film, "Operation Abolition," is sponsored and distributed by the House Committee on Un-American Activities and this Bureau had no connection with its preparation. As a matter of policy, therefore, I am unable to make any comment concerning it.

In response to your other inquiry, the FBI, as an investigative agency, does not furnish evaluations or comments concerning the character or integrity of any individual, organization or publication. I hope you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files pertaining to the organization you mentioned. In view of this, I am sure you will realize that neither I nor any representative of this Bureau has made a statement regarding this group.

I am enclosing some material on communism which may be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Bishop \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosures (4)  
CJH:hmm (3)

(See Enclosures & note next page)

62 MAY 26 1961

TELETYPE UNIT

FBI

MAY 19 3 30 PM '61

Letter to [REDACTED]

**ENCLOSURES**

**4-17-61 Internal Security Statement  
Communism; Bitter Enemy of Religion  
Series from "Christianity Today"  
3-60 LEB Intro & 17th Nat'l Convention**

**NOTE: Bufiles contain no information identifiable with correspondent. The National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) includes in its membership the leading Protestant churches in the country. Various critics of the Council, without access to factual data to support their assertions, have claimed this group is communist controlled or influenced. The FBI, of course, has not investigated the NCCC. (100-50869)**

May 12, 1961

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Malone	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Ingram	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Dir. Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We, along with 46 other couples and/or groups sponsored the movie "Operation Abolition". As forewarned we have stirred up a "hornet's nest" and many fine local christians are very concerned to think that we would dare show a film that the National Council of Churches has condemned so. My husband and I have read several articles by Tom Anderson, publisher of Farm and Ranch's --Straight Talk and also quotes from the Air Force reports and quotes of Mr. Hoover as to the sympathies of the National Council of Churches to communism and their goals.

We would greatly appreciate your thoughts on the status of the National Council of Churches and this movie. We are Methodists and very concerned about what we are hearing and reading and are trying to educate ourselves and others about the dangers of Communism. We have purchased "Masters of Deceit", "The Naked Communist" and several others and are very eager to get more information but we want truthful material and not disguised communistic propaganda.

Please send as much information, or sources of information and advise as possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

EXP. PROC.

MAY 15 1961

1e MAY 24 1961

REC-7

EX-109

50067 662

May 17, 1961

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter of May 2, 1961, with enclosures, has been received and I appreciate your interest in writing. I also want to thank you for your kind comments about the FBI.

The concern you expressed is readily understandable, and I would like to emphasize the fact that the communists have tried to infiltrate every part of our society. Their efforts to destroy our form of government have been thwarted by our internal security program, the investigation, arrest and prosecution of a number of Communist Party functionaries; and the rising tide of public opposition to the Communist movement. Our churches have been and will continue to be important targets in the over-all subversive program of endeavor to control all mass-type organizations, and we must remain alert to any attempts to replace our national tradition with the atheistic philosophy of communism.

MAY 18 9 39 AM '61

I feel most strongly that members of the Communist Party and its sympathizers in the United States represent a threat to our future security, and I agree wholeheartedly that patriotic Americans must continue to take a firm stand against this menace and combat it wherever possible. I am sending enclosed material, under separate cover, which may be of aid to you.

Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

- 1 - Mr. Adair - 4281 (Send Direct)
- USC Material 5 copies each
- 4-17-61 Internal Security Statement Series from "Christianity Today"
- Communist Illusion & Democratic Fealty 3-30 LFB Intro & 17th Nat'l Conv

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

[Redacted]

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
 Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

(U) (S) (C) (D) (R) (E) (N) (T) (I) (O) (N) (S)

TRUE COPY

May 9, 1961

Dear Mr Hoover,

What is happening to our Country? The National Council of Churches and even our own Presbyterian Church is against everything we hold sacred.

Yesterday at Los Angeles Presbytery Eugene Carson Blake quoted the UPI article by Cassels and said See, Hoover says there arnt any reds in the Church. If there arnt any, why do they pass resolutions to strengthen the U. N., oppose operation abolition, Federal Aid to everything, disarming, ban nuclear testing. Blake is against the House on Un American Activity, the NCC would like to recognize red China, and on & on.

Blake said the "Candy Manufacturer and his followers" are Mc Carthism at its worst. I think Mc Carthy was a marvelous American.

The only person people will listen to is you, and when you are so misquoted, the people are not getting the truth. I'm sick at heart, the reds are going to take us over and the people (church people) won't know what happened. Whats wrong with our church leaders, why do they preach socialism-social gospei. Why can't we get back to old facts and religion and Patriotism. Its subversive to be religious and patriotic. I love God and my Country and I want to help keep them free. I'm not a vigilante, just an American.

Please help us to know what to do to help. I've read your book & pamphlets, but could you send some more for me to pass out.

Thank you,

/s/

REC-7

\* 105

July 9, 1961

Dear Mr Hoover,

What is happening to our country? The Nat Council of Churches and even our own Presbyterian Church is against everything we had

...yesterday at the Anglo Presbyterian Eugene Carson Blake quoted the UPI article by Casals and said Mr Hoover says there aren't anyreds in the Church. If there aren't anyreds why do they pass resolutions to strengthen the UN, oppose operation abolition, Federal Aid to everything else arising, ban nuclear testing. Blake is against the Space on UN sponsored activities, the NCC would like to recognize red China and on on.

CORRESPONDENCE

Blake said the "Crazy Men" and his followers are Mr. Carlson at its worst. I think Mr. Catty was a marvelous American.

The only person people will listen to is you, and when you are so misquoted, the people are not getting the truth. I'm sick at heart the seeds are going to take me over and the people (church people) won't know what I said. What's wrong with our Church leaders why do they preach socialism. Social gospel. Why can't we get back to our faith and religion and devotion. It is necessary to be religious and patriotic. I love God and my country and I want to help keep them pure. I'm not a vigilante, just an American.

Please help me to know what to do to help. I've read your book, I'm sure that could you send some more for me to read out. I love you.

11/5

# Christianity, Communism Stand At Opposite Poles of Theology

By LOUIS CASSELS  
United Press International

Christianity and Communism stand in the same relationship as yes and no, white and black, the North Pole and the South Pole.

They are categorical opposites. Christianity affirms the sovereignty of God and ascribes infinite worth to each human being because he is a child of God.

Communism denies the existence of God, and values the individual only as an instrument and servant of the state.

No rational person can be a sincere Christian and a sincere Communist at the same time.

Communists know this. That is why they persecute Christian churches—sometimes openly, sometimes subtly—in every country in which they have gained power, from Russia to Cuba.

In free nations like America, Communists cannot suppress the churches but must think of other tactics.

## Attempts Made to Infiltrate

Communists undoubtedly have tried in the past to infiltrate churches by having disguised Communists work their way up to positions of leadership, particularly in the ranks of the clergy.

They have learned that this is easier said than done. As a practical matter, it is enormously dif-

icult for a Communist to pose convincingly as a dedicated Christian even for the space of one conversation, let alone through the long years of seminary study and pulpit service which are required of any man who becomes an influential leader in U.S. church life.

But although they have failed to infiltrate the churches in any substantial way, there is evidence that the Communists like it when changes are made that they actually have done so.

The Communists know that in the present climate of American feeling, there is no surer way of discrediting the leadership of churches and of sowing confusion and discord among their lay members than for the suspicion to be nourished that a substantial number of Christian clergymen are secret supporters of the Communist conspiracy.

You may think all of this is far-fetched. But the Federal Bureau of Investigation does not.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover is deeply concerned about the danger that self-appointed "vigilantes" may, in the name of anti-Communism, play into the Communists' hands.

During the past few weeks, Hoover has sent FBI Chief Inspector William C. Sullivan to deliver speeches in many parts of

the nation, warning Americans not to be taken in by charges that their churches are overrun with Reds.

"These allegations have served to create the impression among many Americans that the Protestant denominations in particular have been subjected to alarming infiltration and influence," Sullivan says. "But this is a patent falsehood. The truth of the matter is that the Communist party has not achieved any substantial success in exerting domination, control or influence over America's clergymen or religious institutions on a national scale."



# Founded as Anti-U.S.

to maintain surveillance over its activities. From what one can learn of the inner structure of the John Birch outfit, its table of organization resembles nothing so much as the prospectus of the Ku Klux Klan when it was gathering in the 1920s.

It can be taken for granted that eventually it will reveal itself as an anti-Catholic, anti-Semitic movement. This trend is clear insofar as the anti-Communist philosophy is concerned by the words in its founder's refers to our President, John F. Kennedy.

It is what Robert Welch, founder of the organization, thinks of President Kennedy, wartime dedicated public servant, and devoted Catholic.

"You will usually find him in church on Sunday, or even in a Catholic church," writes

We take it that this pastor great wit in the Birch Society. One can justly say the members doubled up in laughter at the merry quip of the author.

"Such an amoral man to do a tremendous amount of ball-carrying on behalf of the Communist aims here in the United States. And he can do an almost equal amount of damage to anti-Communist morale in other parts of the world."

President Kennedy, then an obscure naval lieutenant, should have been sinking of Welch's ultimate judgment when he was risking his life in enemy-infested waters to save his comrades.

As if the warning of Hoover weren't enough, we would think the words of Sen. Thomas Dodd of Connecticut would be the clincher in deterring anyone misled by the Birch Society's alleged anti-



J. EDGAR HOOVER  
Fears on 'Liberals'

Turn to Page 2, Col. 28

Simon

# Society

# Brand

By **FRANK CONNIF**  
National Editor, Hearst Newspapers

The timely warning of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover that "vigilante action" by irresponsible organizations can do more harm than good in combatting communism in America should put a crimp in the burgeoning activities of the John Birch Society.

Hoover speaks from a lifetime of experience when inveighs against groups which callously smear patriotic Americans in their misguided attempts to inject their own prejudices into the ideological struggle.

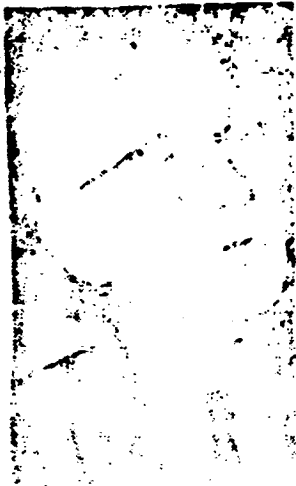
Who is frequently forgotten about the FBI is that keeps an eye cocked on neo-Nazi and Fascist organizations as well as on Communist fronts. His reporter happens to know the FBI has taken in view of the John Birch Society for quite some time now and has its agents in the proper

places to maintain surveillance over its members. From what one can learn of the nature of the John Birch outfit, its table of organization resembles nothing so much as that of the Ku Klux Klan when it was at its strength in the 1920s.

It can be taken for granted that eventually will reveal itself as an anti-Catholic movement. This trend is clear insofar as Catholic philosophy is concerned by the which its founder refers to our President Kennedy.

Here is what Robert Welch, founder of the organization, thinks of President Kennedy, a hero, dedicated public servant, and devotee of the Catholic Church:

"You will usually find him in church on Sunday, maybe even in a Catholic church," says Welch.



—AS DEPICTED BY HIS WIFE—  
**ROBERT WELCH**  
*Its founder.*

## Hiestand

## Doubts FBI

## Revelation

### Urges Birch Critics to Get 'All Facts'

Rep. Edgar W. Hiestand of Alameda, a member of the controversial John Birch Society, said Friday night he questioned "very much" whether FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover would reveal he was investigating the society.

Reached in Washington for comment on an article by Hearst National Editor Frank Conniff that the FBI is keeping an eye on the society, Hiestand said:

"I just can't imagine that the FBI would disclose what it is doing. It absorbs information. It doesn't reveal it. I question very much that it has done so in the case of the John Birch Society.

"The FBI knows all there is to know about the society. Mr. Hoover realizes that the

ALBUQUERQUE

## Doubts FBI

# Revelation

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"I just can't imagine that the FBI would disclose what it is doing. It absorbs information. It doesn't reveal it. I question very much that it has done so in the case of the John Birch Society.

"The FBI knows all there is to know about the society. Mr. Hoover realizes that the more you know, sometimes the more harm than good. If the society is not in that category."

Earlier, Hiestand said he enrolled in the society because it is a "patriotic organization of rugged individualists, dedicated to patriotism and determined in their fight against communism."

He said that while he does not agree with all the views of society founder Robert Welch he openly subscribes to the general thesis of the organization and intends to continue as a member. He warned critics not to "sound off before they have all the facts."

Another Congressional member of the society, Rep. John H. Rousselot of San Gabriel, like Hiestand a Republican, said in commenting on the Conniff article:

"I'm attempting to make contact with J. Edgar Hoover to try to get a statement from him on the society. Until then, I don't want to say anything."

He said other Congressmen were society members but refused to divulge their names.

REC-7

661

1 - Mr. Simpson

LX-112

May 23, 1961

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter dated May 17, 1961, and your interest in writing to me is appreciated.

While I would like to be of assistance to you, the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the FBI do not extend to furnishing evaluations or comments concerning the character or integrity of any individual, organization or publication. I am precluded, therefore, from commenting on the organization you mentioned; however, you should not infer that our files do or do not contain information concerning it.

I am enclosing several items of literature concerning communism which you may want to read.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (3)

NOTE ON YELLOW: Bufiles contain no identifiable data concerning the correspondent.

The National Council of the Churches of Christ has not been investigated by the Bureau. We have kept abreast of the efforts of the Communist Party to infiltrate it through our over-all investigations of the Communist Party, USA. It does not appear that the policies of this organization are being dictated by the Communist Party. (100-50869)

NOTE ON YELLOW, CONTINUED, PAGE TWO

RDS:pw (3)

MAY 23 1 36 PM '61

RECEIVED

66 MAY 29 1961

[Handwritten initials]



NOTE ON YELLOW, CONTINUED

The following items of literature were sent to the correspondent:

1. "What You Can do to Fight Communism and Preserve America."
2. Director's Statement dated April 17, 1961, Concerning Internal Security.
3. "Communist Illusion and Democratic Reality."

[REDACTED]  
May 17, 1961

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover;

In view of the growing menace of Communism and the increasing necessity of effective means of combating it we need more factual information about Communist Front organizations and Communist infiltrated organizations. One of these organizations which I am very much concerned about and am trying to get more factual information about is the National Council of Churches.

If you can help me in supplying any information about this organization or advising me where such information might be made available to me I would greatly appreciate it.

Thank you very much,

A much concerned citizen,  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

REC-2

MAY 24 1961

SECRET

EX-114

May 16, 1961

REC-23

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I want to express my thanks for your letter of May 5, 1961, as well as the material which you were kind enough to send to me.

I wish I could be of service to you in connection with your request; however, in view of my position as Director of the FBI, it would not be proper for me to comment concerning this report. I do want you to know that I am looking forward to reading it, and I would appreciate receiving some of the booklets you mentioned.

Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: Correspondent enclosed a copy of a Resolution adopted by his church recommending that the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States withdraw from the National Council of Churches. He also enclosed a report, with accompanying appendix, compiled by a committee of his church pertaining to the National Council of Churches; and a transcription of an interview between members of this committee and Mr. J. Quinter Miller of the National Council of Churches.

[REDACTED]

CJH:lc  
(3)

*Law*  
*Office*  
*Sirney*

MAY 16 4 12 PM '61  
FBI

MAILED 5

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Bishop  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

67 MAY 29 1961



**ST. MARK'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
Fairfield at Rutherford  
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

May 5, 1961

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Parsons	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Callahan	✓
Mr. Conrad	✓
Mr. DeLoach	✓
Mr. Evans	✓
Mr. Malone	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tavel	✓
Mr. Trotter	✓
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Ingram	✓
Miss Gandy	✓
157	

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

Out of a long friendship between you and my mother, her deep respect and admiration for you; together with my wife, [redacted] and my own personal meetings with you, I am taking the liberty of sending you under separate cover, a report of an investigation, or study, that a special committee of my Vestry has just recently completed. Ten months were given to this study and I think you will find it a comprehensive and accurate report. News of this report is widespread and we are receiving literally hundreds of letters requesting copies of it. Mr. Fulton Lewis, Jr. devoted two of his broadcasts (April 25 and 28) to the St. Mark's Vestry report of the National Council of Churches of Christ in America.

What you are receiving now is a mimeographed report plus a transcription of our conversation with Dr. J. Quinter Miller, Assistant General Secretary of the N.C. This occurred on February 3rd and a court reporter was on hand to take down everything that was said. This was an eight hour session. The report that you are receiving will, in the next two weeks, be in a booklet form printed on slick paper.

I should like very much to hear your comments on this work. Should you desire, copies of the booklet will gladly be sent you.

With kind regards, I am

Faithfully yours,

[Redacted signature block]

REC-40

JLH/hp

MAY 24 1961

MAY 3 1961



REC-44

659

May 19, 1961

[REDACTED]

DEAR [REDACTED]

Your letter of May 14, 1961, has been received, and the interest which prompted you to write is appreciated.

Although I would like to be of service, the FBI is an investigative agency of the Federal Government and, as such, does not make evaluations nor draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. I regret that I am unable to help you and hope that you will not infer in this connection either that we do or that we do not have data in our files relating to the subject of your inquiry.

MAY 20 11 46 PM '61

Enclosed is some literature dealing with the general subject of communism which may be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (3)

Communist Illusion & Democratic Reality  
4-17-61 statement re internal security  
Series from "Christianity Today"

NOTE: The National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) includes in its membership the leading Protestant churches in the country. Various critics of the Council, without access to factual data to support their assertions, have claimed this group is communist controlled or influenced. (see next page)

DCL:js\* (3)

Malone  
Casper  
Callahan  
Conrad  
Felt  
Gale  
Rosen  
Sullivan  
Tavel  
Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Holmes  
Gandy

[REDACTED]

5-19-61

**NOTE CONTINUED:** The FBI, of course, has not investigated the NCCC. (100-50869) Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

[REDACTED]

TRUE COPY

May 14, 1961

Dear Sirs:

Please send me some information on The National Council of Churches. I know and understand very little about their views and want to go into it more thoroughly.

Thank you,



659

MAY 24

May 14, 1961

Dear Sir

Please send me  
some information on  
the National Council of  
the robes. I know of  
and understand very  
little about it and  
would be glad to  
hear of it more  
thoroughly.  
Thank you



CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson	_____
Parsons	_____
Mohr	_____
Belmont	_____
Callahan	_____
Conrad	_____
DeLoach	_____
Evans	_____
Malone	_____
Rosen	_____
Tavel	_____
Trotter	_____
W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Ingram	_____
Gandy	_____

TO : Mr. F. J. Baumgardner

DATE: May 12, 1961

FROM : Mr. J. A. Kleinkauf

SUBJECT: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE USA  
INFORMATION CONCERNING (INTERNAL SECURITY)

You requested a memorandum showing the actions sponsored by the National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) that follow the Communist Party (CP) line. Set forth below are actions of the NCCC which parallel the CP line, although it cannot be inferred that the NCCC is following the CP line.

The Washington City News Service on 2-25-54 reported that the NCCC had asked the House of Representatives of the United States Congress to curb abuses by the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HCUA). They reportedly urged that the Committee be halted from spreading malicious gossip through the release of unevaluated accusations from its files about individuals and groups, stating that the information was not checked for accuracy and some of it was false. (100-40352-a)

The reports of the Fund for the Republic dated 5-31-55 stated that the sums of \$10,000 and \$50,000, respectively, had been awarded to the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations of the NCCC, which money was to be used for a study of racial discrimination. (100-50869, summary dated 9-9-55)

The 1-1-59 issue of the American Legion "Firing Line" reported that delegates to the World Order Study Conference, sponsored by the NCCC, had unanimously urged recognition of Communist China and that Communist China be admitted to the United Nations. Other statements adopted by the Conference called for "stronger efforts should be made to break through the present stalemate and to find ways of living with the communist nations."

- 1 - Mr. Baumgardner
- 1 - Mr. Kleinkauf
- 1 - Mr. Harrington

REC-22

100-50869

JTH:scd/flw  
(4)

105  
66  
5-11-61

Memorandum for Mr. Baumgardner  
Re: National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA  
100-50369

The "Washington Post and Times Herald" of 2-28-59 reported that the National Council of Churches on 2-26-59 had urged Congress to strike out the Loyalty Oath provisions of the 1958 National Defense Education Act.

The NCCC recommended on 2-23-61 that churches refuse to show the film "Operation Abolition" unless it is accompanied by a "full and fair presentation" of available facts surrounding demonstrations during an HCUA hearing at San Francisco in May, 1960.

The NCCC, at a general board in Seattle, Washington, on 6-4-59 stated that the NCCC is and always has been unalterably opposed to communism. At the NCCC General Board Meeting in Syracuse, New York, 2-23-61, the Council reaffirmed its opposition to and repugnance for communism and activities of communist sympathizers.

ACTION:

Submitted pursuant to your request.

REC-40

1-656

May 15, 1961

[Redacted]

4-2

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter dated May 5, 1961, has been received, and I want to sincerely thank you for your kind message and best wishes. Your generous evaluation of my book, "Masters of Deceit," is also deeply appreciated.

MAY 15 10 19 AM '61  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION ROOM 4

The concern you expressed in your communication regarding the menace of subversive elements in our society is readily understandable and I would like to emphasize the fact that the communists have tried to infiltrate every part of our society. Their efforts to destroy our form of government have been thwarted by our internal security programs; the investigation, arrest and prosecution of a number of Communist Party functionaries; and the rising tide of public opposition to the communist movement. Our churches have been and will continue to be important targets in the over-all subversive program of endeavoring to control all mass-type organizations, and we must remain alert to any attempts to replace our national tradition with the atheistic philosophy of communism.

I am enclosing some material which may be of assistance to you with respect to this problem.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

MAILED 5

Enclosures (4)  
What You Can Do To Fight Communism Series from "Christianity Today"  
Communist Illusion & Democratic Reality 4-17-61 statement re internal security

(See NOTE next page)

DCL:hmm (3)

[REDACTED] 5-12-61

NOTE: Correspondent's specific inquiries are being ignored since the material forwarded will present the Director's inability to do so. No prior correspondence has been had with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The American Council of Christian Laymen published a brochure entitled "How Red is the Federal Council of Churches?" which contained a statement by the Director, used out of context, to infer that certain individuals affiliated with the Federal Council of Churches were subversive. Considerable controversy among Christian laymen resulted following release of this publication. (62-100432)

[REDACTED]



Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Mr. Tolson:

Enclosed for you are

three copies of a letterhead memorandum (LHM) dated May 8, 1961, which contains information regarding the activities of the Communist Party, USA, in the United States. The LHM is classified "Secret" and contains information which is exempt from disclosure under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

The LHM is a copy of a letterhead memorandum (LHM) dated May 8, 1961, which contains information regarding the activities of the Communist Party, USA, in the United States. The LHM is classified "Secret" and contains information which is exempt from disclosure under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

I am enclosing for you a copy of the LHM and a description of the information contained therein. The LHM is classified "Secret" and contains information which is exempt from disclosure under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

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MAY 9 1961  
 TELE. ROOM  
 MISS GANDY

REC-40

I am writing to you regarding the "left" or any other group which is trying to bring about a change in our government. I believe that the people of this country are not interested in such things and that the only way to bring about a change in our government is through the ballot box. I am concerned that the "left" is trying to bring about a change in our government through violence and that this is a dangerous thing to do. I believe that the people of this country are not interested in such things and that the only way to bring about a change in our government is through the ballot box.

I believe that the people of this country are not interested in such things and that the only way to bring about a change in our government is through the ballot box. I believe that the people of this country are not interested in such things and that the only way to bring about a change in our government is through the ballot box.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your difficulty.

RECEIVED-PARSONS  
MAY 9 3 04 PM '51  
FBI  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REC'D. CORR. & TOURS  
FBI  
MAY 9 3 04 PM '51

RECEIVED - CORR  
FBI  
MAY 9 3 11 PM '51

REC'D. CORR. & TOURS  
FBI  
MAY 9 3 48 PM '51

REC-2

May 16, 1961

655

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter of May 10, 1961, with enclosures, has been received, and the interest which prompted you to write is appreciated.

Although I would like to be of service, the files of this Bureau are confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and are available for official use only. Further, the FBI is an investigative agency of the Federal Government and, as such, does not make evaluations nor draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. I regret that I am unable to help you and hope you will not infer in this connection either that we do or that we do not have data in our files relating to your inquiry.

RECEIVED  
MAY 16 5 52 PM '61

The concern you expressed in your discussion is readily understandable, and I would like to emphasize the fact that the communists have tried to infiltrate every part of our society. Their efforts to destroy our form of government have been thwarted by our internal security programs; the investigation, arrest and prosecution of a number of Communist Party functionaries; and the rising tide of public opposition to the Communist movement. Our churches have been and will continue to be important targets in the over-all subversive program of endeavoring to control all mass-type organizations, and we must remain alert to any attempts to replace our national tradition with the atheistic philosophy of communism.

In view of your interest, enclosed is some material dealing with the general subject of communism.

Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

COMM-FBI

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Bishop
- Mr. Casper
- Mr. Callahan
- Mr. Conrad
- Mr. Felt
- Mr. Gale
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Sullivan
- Mr. Tavel
- Mr. Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Miss Holmes
- Miss Gandy

Enclosures (3)  
RWE:cah (1) (See next page-enclosures and Bu Note.)  
MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

**4-17 Director's Statement re Internal Security  
Christianity Today's Series  
Communism: The Bitter Enemy of Religion**

**NOTE: No record could be located in Bufiles identifiable with correspondent. Enclosures were brochures of a religious nature. The National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) includes in its membership the leading Protestant churches in the country. Various critics of the Council, without access to factual data to support their assertions, have claimed this group is communist controlled or influenced. The FBI, of course, has not investigated the NCCC. (100-50869)**

TRUE COPY

May 10, 1961

J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed are some pamphlets which are being circulated in my home town. They are supposed to expose communism in our churches. I am also in possession of a book entitled "Has The Methodist Church Gone Mad?" by A. H. McGregor in which ex president Eisenhower is ridiculed for trying to make Washington a model city by equal rights or integration of the negro.

Now I am just an ordinary citizen and ex G. I who would like to know how much of this is truth or is this the work of communist in trying to create trouble within the churches of our land with the negro situation -- I will appreciate any comment you can make regarding this--

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

May 10, 1961

J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed are some pamphlets which are being circulated in my home town. They are supposed to expose communism in our churches. I am also in possession of a book entitled "How the Methodist Church Gave 'Mad?' by A. H. McGregor in which ex-president Eisenhower is ridiculed for trying to make Washington a model city by equal rights or integration of the negro.

Now I am just an ordinary citizen and I would like to know how much of this is truth or is this the work of communist in trying to <sup>REG</sup> create trouble within the churches of our land and with the negro situation - I will <sup>MAY 18 1961</sup> appreciate any comment you can make regarding this.

CORRESPONDENCE

OSURE



# Straight Talk

by Toss Anderson

At a recent Presbyterian assembly, the conference elected as head of its theological seminary in San Francisco a minister who has proclaimed his disbelief in the Virgin Birth of Christ. The meeting discussed such subjects as sex, birth control, NAACP, federal aid to education, abolishment of capital punishment, federal housing, admission of Communist China to the U.N.—in fact, practically everything except religion.

The S. Ferre

One of the most outstanding preacher-orators in America, Nels F. S. Ferre, wrote this in his book *The Christian Understanding of God*: "Strange, however, is the hold which this doctrine (the Virgin Birth) . . . has on countless peoples. Reference to the Virgin Birth is not found in Paul's letters, the earliest writings we have. It is not found in Mark, the original Gospel . . . As a matter of fact, the reference in John to the claim by the Jews to the effect that they were not born in adultery, could give external credence to a Nazi claim that Jesus was German. Mary, we remember, was found pregnant before her engagement to mild Joseph. Nazareth was held by a Roman garrison where the soldiers were German mercenaries. Jesus is also reported throughout a continuous part of the history of art, it is claimed, to have been blond. This is supposedly unnatural for the Mediterranean countries where this same tradition started and was continued. Hence Jesus must have been the child of a German soldier."

Of Jesus, Ferre says: "He is at best a vague figure. He never was nor became God." Of Communism, Ferre says: "We shall witness to the Communists because whatever truth is theirs we accept wholeheartedly, and beyond their truth lies God's truth . . . If Marxism should conquer the whole world, this might be merely the prelude in economic arrangement to the blossoming forth within it of the deeply sowed seed of the Christian faith and expectations."

Some disbelievers and won't-believers cry that such quotes were "taken out of context!" How could the rest of the book possibly compensate for the above?

## National Council of Judases

A proposed amendment to our Constitution reads: "This nation devoutly recognizes the authority and law of Jesus Christ, Savior and Ruler of Nations, through whom are bestowed the blessings of Almighty God." Guess what organization voted 59 to 1 in its General Board meeting against this proposed amendment to reaffirm our nation's belief in Christianity? The National Council of Churches. Reason? The National Council Board stated that such an amendment would "embarrass the relations of American churches and the nation with the world majority of non-Christians." We've spent billions on end for years on end, trying to convert the heathens throughout the world to Christianity—which we don't acknowledge ourselves if it might embarrass "the majority of non-Christians." Wonder what the heathens we converted think of that?

The American Association for Advancement of Atheism in a recent annual report stated: "They are saving the ship of Christianity by throwing her cargo overboard. With what zeal the Fosdicks and Shaler Mathews and the whole crew or rescuers toss out the Virgin Birth, atonement and the resurrection. We welcome the aid of the Modernists and

pledge them our fullest cooperation in ridding the world of any serious acceptance of Christian theology."

These "Modernists" would replace "The Fatherhood of God" with the "Brotherhood of man." These rewriters of the Bible omitted Acts 8:37 which says, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Their "Interpreter's Bible" constantly uses the words "myth," "folklore," "legendary," "fallacy," to describe Christ's miracles. These same characters preside at the serving of Communion, hypocritically serving the body and the blood of the "illegitimate, non-divine offspring of a German soldier and a married woman" to believers on their knees in atonement. We do not have to be theologians to know that if Jesus was not divine. He was not perfect, and vice versa. What is Christianity, if Christ is not divine? These usurpers were not satisfied to start a new religion. You need to get crucified and rise from the dead to do that. They were determined to infiltrate, destroy and "modernize" ours.

## They Know Not What They Do

J. B. Matthews says in his book *Communism in the Churches*, page 9: "The largest single group supporting the Communist apparatus in the United States today is composed of Protestant clergymen." The House Un-American Activities Committee [which is now fighting for its life] showed as of 1953 that 8,673 American clergymen were in the Communist conspiracy, knowingly or unknowingly. At that time there were 353 Rabbis, 626 Presbyterians, 1,429 Protestant-Episcopal and 2,131 Methodists, among others.

These false prophets want to establish peace and world brotherhood by turning convicted Communists out of jail (if they haven't already been released by Supreme Court decisions); by abolishing investigating committees of the Congress; by killing loyalty oaths; repealing immigration and security laws; forgetting the enslaved Hungarians, Poles, Chinese, Ukrainians, etc. and ending—not winning—the Cold War; and cutting defense efforts.

The preacher in his pulpit holds a special niche—a link between communicants and God. He is their spiritual mentor, giving his life to God in the highest calling to which man can be called. He has baptized, christened, comforted, married, blessed, advised, guided, inspired and hurried us and our beloved. We believe and believe in our minister. So when he is led into integrating the spiritual with the economic and preaching a collectivist New World Order to us, we are caught off guard.

A preacher (as well as a "professional Christian" on a church payroll) should be even more responsible for what he says and signs and joins than other people. If he cooperates with or joins individuals or groups dedicated to the violent overthrow of our country, then he should pay the consequences.

Some of the leaders of the NCC cried "foul" when "Christian Crusade," "Circuit Riders" and other Christian patriotic organizations published the facts which were re-published recently in the Air Force Training Manual. Most preachers are intelligent, wonderful men, dedicated to God and country. But some preachers are emotional, naive and ill-informed on worldly affairs. You might expect these errant preachers, instead of crying "foul," to step forward in public repentance and say: "Forgive me Lord, for I knew not what I did!"

• • • Received the FARM AND RANCH magazine, and could hardly wait to read your "Straight Talk," and Bill Kennedy's report. We certainly need someone who will tell us the truth.

After reading your article on the National Council of Churches, I wonder if you could tell us what to do and how to worship and where, since most of the churches belong to the NCC. My church is very dedicated to Christ but is willing to support the program without knowing what it is supporting. If the church program recommends it, they think it is O.K. Even the preacher doesn't question the leaders of the NCC who deny Christ, the Virgin Birth, the blood, the Bible and all they stand for. He says he is so busy preaching the love of God that he doesn't have time to worry about the NCC. He thinks someone else is *capable* of taking care of that.

*Mrs. Claude Lott Brownsville, Tenn.*

The "Let George do it" attitude is one thing the matter. Your preacher may be a good man and devout servant, but he is taking the very stand that the "Commies" counted on him to take. The church, in business session, could show him the error of his ways.

—Ed.



654

May 17, 1961

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Your letter of May 9, 1961, has been received, and the interest which prompted you to write is appreciated.

Although I would like to be of service, the FBI is an investigative agency of the Federal Government and, as such, does not make evaluations nor draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, group or individual. I regret that I am unable to help you and hope that you will not infer in this connection either fact or doubt that we do not have data in our files relating to the subject of your inquiry.

Enclosed is some literature dealing with the general subject of communism which may be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

W. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (4)  
Communist Illusion & Democratic Reality  
4-17-61 Statement The Communist Menace  
One Nation's Response to Communism

NOTE: Bufiles contain no derogatory information regarding correspondent.

53 MAY 22 1961  
JMH:js\* (3)

RECEIVED  
FBI  
MAY 17 12 52 PM '61

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Bishop  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Malone	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Ingram	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

[REDACTED]

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
 Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am writing this letter to you personally, realizing that you must be busy for time. However, after considerable forethought, I decided that there was no one else whose opinion I would fully respect in the matter which I wish to make a decision upon...the National Council of Churches.

My own church, an American Baptist Church, belongs to the N.C.C. I have recently been doing considerable research on the National Council and the National Council have come up with some most disturbing findings...namely that they seem to follow the Communist line of policy on various subjects as alluded to in the U.S. and the activities of the House Un-American Activities Committee, as well as others. Also, I find it disturbing to see suspicion heading up the NCC to divide the church membership of Communist infiltration, as well as individuals, and whether present or disavowed. I do, however, see various papers backing these individuals to the NCC, with no mention of the NCC in any of them.

You can understand church members, and other citizens in connection with the National Council are... it is enough to the 'Left' to consider it a year risk for church to belong to or is it all coincidence that its policies... 1951

EXP-PROG  
 MAY 12 1961

EX-114

REC-87

our church... 1951

body of the people that it seems to be the Communist cause even if it  
hasn't actually follow their purposes...or does it?

Mr. Hoover, there are people here and throughout the country who will parrot  
anything the National Council has to say...thinking it 'A-OK' because it is a  
church organization.

How do you feel about the National Council of Churches and its policies?  
Do you not feel that religion and preaching the gospel from the Bible is secondary  
to its seeking first desire of 'social' betterment? How should the ordinary  
citizen look upon the National Council of Churches?

I would certainly appreciate direct and personal answer. I do not know  
where else to turn on this matter with certainty.

Yours truly,

[Redacted signature block]

*C. I. I have all needs read reports of the House  
on American activities Committee.*

REC-33

100-50869-653

May 15, 1961

EX-116

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter of May 8, 1961, has been received, and I want to thank you for the benefit of your observations. It was indeed kind of you to comment as you did concerning the work of this Bureau.

In response to your question as to what you can do, I am enclosing a reprint of my statement dated April 17, 1961, which contains suggestions for individuals and organizations wishing to aid the FBI in the internal security field. There is also enclosed some other literature on the subject of communism.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

MAY 15 5 20 PM '61

MAILED 5  
MAY 16 1961  
COMM-FBI

Enclosures (3)  
Director's Statement Re Internal Security, 4-17-61  
What You Can Do To Fight Communism.  
Communism: The Bitter Enemy Of Religion  
Communist Illusion And Democratic Reality  
Series From Christianity Today

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

EFT:lmv

(3)

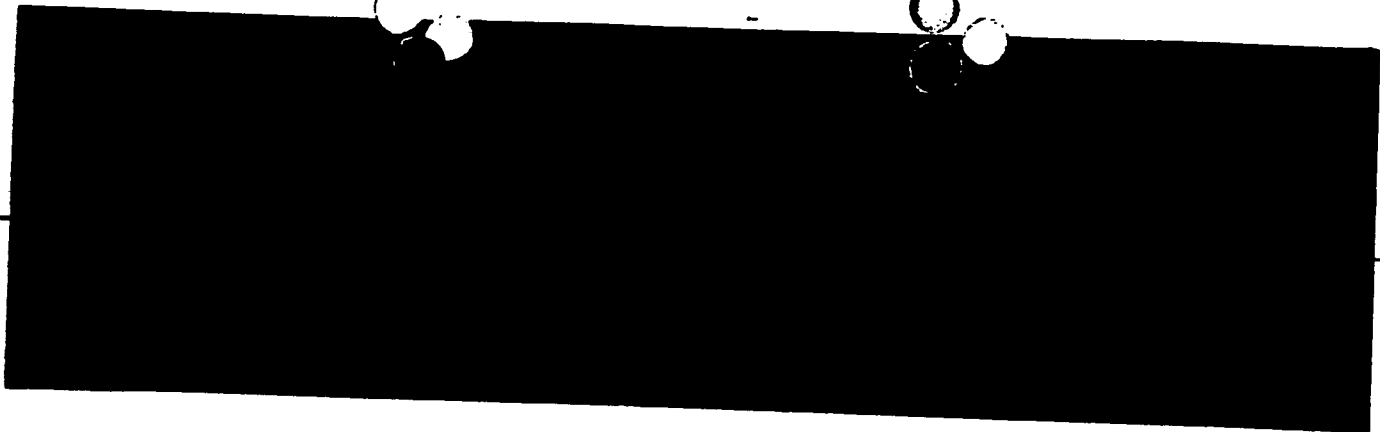
(Note continued on next page)

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Evans \_\_\_\_\_
- Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

[REDACTED]

**NOTE:** The National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) includes in its membership the leading Protestant churches in the country. Various critics of the Council, without access to factual data to support their assertions, have claimed this group is communist controlled or influenced. The FBI, of course, has not investigated the NCCC. (100-50869)



May 8, 1961

J. Edgar Hoover  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I wish to thank you and those who work with you for the great effort you have and are putting forth to protect our country.

The question in my mind and every informed citizen is, what can I do. I would appreciate any information and especially pamphlets on communism which I could pass out to the members of our congregation.

What can I do to help so that these traitors to our great country cannot continue the undermining of our law enforcement agencies and see that my rights are protected.

Our forefathers came to this country for the freedom of religion. They fought for their rights and some gave their lives. I like every American wants peace, but not the peace of communism. My fears are not so much for myself as they are for my son.

I must agree with others that the National Council of Churches is being infiltrated by the communist. I want you to know that the Disciples of Christ which claim to represent the Christian Churches of America, do not represent them all. There are a very large number of Christian Churches in America and especially in the Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio area which are independent of any national or state organization which if they were informed would speak out against communism in any area of church of life.

Only a return to God can stop communism is the cry of many of us. Will you continue to help us to turn this country through the help of God to the freedom loving nation it was when our forefathers came to America.

Thank you again for your help. I remain,

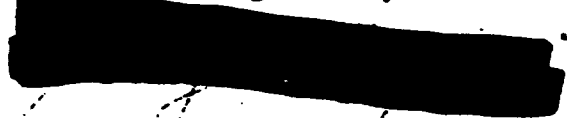
EX-116

100-50769

REC-33

A Freedom Loving Citizen,

MAY 17 1961



REC-33

EX-114

652

May 11, 1961

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of May 3, 1961, has been received, and the interest which prompted you to write is indeed appreciated.

While I would like to be of service to you, the FBI, as an investigative agency, does not furnish evaluations or comments concerning the character or integrity of any individual, organization or publication. I hope you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files regarding the subject of your inquiry.

I am enclosing some material on communism which you may like to read.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Enclosures (4)

4-17-61 Internal Security Statement  
Communism: Bitter Enemy of Religion  
Series from "Christianity Today"

3-1-60 LEB Intro & 17th National Convention CPUSA

NOTE: Bufiles contain no information identifiable with correspondent. The National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) includes in its membership the leading Protestant churches in the country. Various critics of the Council, without access to factual data to support their assertions, have claimed this group is communist controlled or influenced. The FBI, of course, has not investigated the NCCC. (100-50369)

CJR:hmm (3)

56 MAY 18 1961

MAY 11 3 45 PM '61  
RECORDS ROOM

Telephone  
Director's Office  
Asst. Dir. Adm. Serv.  
Asst. Dir. Inv. Div.  
Asst. Dir. Ident. Div.  
Asst. Dir. Lab.  
Asst. Dir. Legal Coun.  
Asst. Dir. Plan. & Insp.  
Asst. Dir. Rec. Mgmt.  
Asst. Dir. Tech. Serv.  
Asst. Dir. Training  
Asst. Dir. Public Affs.  
Asst. Dir. Liaison  
Miss Gandy

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. DeLoach	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Callahan	✓
Mr. Conrad	✓
Mr. Felt	✓
Mr. Evans	✓
Mr. Malone	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tavel	✓
Mr. Trotter	✓
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Ingram	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

3 May 1961

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington 25, D. C.

Gentlemen:

As you undoubtedly know there is a controversy among the churches as to whether the National Council of Churches in the United States is infiltrated by Communists.

If there is extant any documentary evidence that this body is so infiltrated would you please give me the source to which I could apply for copies.

If it is within your province to make any other comment about this serious situation, I would be more than grateful for it.

Yours very truly,

[Redacted signature block]

EX-114

REC-21

652

5 MAY 16 1961



May 12, 1961

MAY 7 4 27 PM '61

FBI

651

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

I have received your letter of May 4, with enclosure, and I was glad to learn you have read my book, "Masters of Deceit." With respect to Mr. Cassels' article, I welcome the opportunity to express my views on the subject you mentioned.

Our churches have been and will continue to be important targets in the over-all communist program of endeavoring to control all mass-type organizations, and we must remain alert to such efforts to subvert our way of life. The communists have tried to infiltrate every part of our society, and I agree with you wholeheartedly that patriotic citizens must continue to take a firm stand against communism and must combat it wherever possible. But this opposition to communism must be careful, constructive and positive. In discussing communism, Chief Inspector William C. Sullivan dealt with the subject with all possible objectivity, candor and accuracy. For your ready reference, I am enclosing a copy of a resume of Mr. Sullivan's statements on this subject.

The jurisdiction and responsibilities of the FBI do not extend to furnishing evaluations or comments concerning the character or integrity of any individual, publication or organization. Consequently, it will not be possible for me to comply with your wishes with respect to the organization you mentioned.

In response to your request, I am returning your enclosure along with some other items setting forth my views on communism which you might like to have.

Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

*[Handwritten signature]*

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Flynn \_\_\_\_\_
- Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MAILED 22

NOTE: Next page.

MAY 19 1961

Enclosures (4) Next page.

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

JMM:ncr (3)

**Enclosures**

**newspaper clipping**

**Communism and Religion by Mr. Sullivan**

**Communist Illusion and Democratic Reality**

**4-61 LEB Intro**

**NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of the correspondent. The National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) includes in its membership the leading Protestant churches in the country. Various critics of the Council, without access to factual data to support their assertions, have claimed this group is communist-controlled or influenced. The FBI, of course, has not investigated the NCCC. (100-50869)**

5-4-61

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Malone	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Ingram	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

all

Dear Mr. Hoover

I know you are a very busy man but I am disturbed by this article that appeared in one of our local papers recently. I have read your book "Masters of Deceit," in fact own it, and I take anti communist literature from several reliable sources, and I have certainly gathered the impression that you were warning (so to speak) the people of the dangers of infiltration in the churches & that it was to the dangerous point as I say this is the impression I have received. Could you inform me of the stand or facts I have marked on this article. I also own Philbrick's book I lead 3 lives & I gather from it that it is a common thing & is to a dangerous point. If you don't mind I'd like to have this article back with the reply.

B. F. [unclear]  
 [unclear]

Thank you

/s/ [redacted]  
 [redacted]

P. S. One of our leading pastors & teachers in one of our church colleges gave me this article as the results of a conversation regarding the NCCC. I would be interested in some facts on this organization from you.

EX-114

REC-21

MAY 16 1961

COPY - 1  
rm

EXP. PROC.  
 MAY 8 1961

5-4-61

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I know you are a very busy man but I am disturbed by this article that appeared in one of our local papers recently - I have read your book "Masters of Deceit" in fact own it, and I take Anti Communist literature from several reliable sources, and I have certainly gathered the impression that you were warning (as to speak) the people of the dangers of infiltration in the churches. & that it was the dangerous point, as I say this is the impression I have received. Could you inform me of the stand or facts I have marked on this article. I also own Philbrick's book I had 3 lives & I gather from it, that it is a common thing & is a dangerous point. <sup>and</sup> 5-12-61  
gms

If you don't mind I'd like to have  
this article back with the reply.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

P.S. one of our leading Pastors & teachers  
in one of our church colleges gave  
me this <sup>article</sup> as the result of a  
conversation regarding the N.C.C.  
I would be interested in some  
facts on this organization from  
you.

REC-20

650

May 12, 1961

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter of May 4, 1961, has been received, and the interest which prompted you to write is appreciated.

Although I would like to be of service, the FBI is an investigative agency of the Federal Government and, as such, does not make evaluations nor draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. I regret that I am unable to help you and hope that you will not infer in this connection either that we do or that we do not have data in our files relating to the subjects of your inquiry.

Enclosed is some literature dealing with the general subject of communism which may be of interest.

Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED  
MAY 15 1961

Enclosures (1)

- 4-1-61 LEB Intro
- Communist Illusion and Democratic Reality
- One Nation's Response to Communism
- The Communist Menace: Red Goals and Christian Ideals

NOTE: Bufiles contain no identifiable information regarding the correspondent. No attempt has been made to search Bufiles regarding the many persons, publications and organizations mentioned for the purpose of answering this communication.

JMK:baw\* (3)

MAV 2 1 30 PM '61

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

May 4, 1961

J. Edgar Hoover  
 F.B.I.  
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Recently, I have had some literature handed me concerning Communism in the United States. While I agree that Communism poses a very great threat to the world and here in the United States, I can also see how Communist propaganda could be used to fill American people with suspicion and panic. By so doing they may move in and take over under cover. I also realize that the churches of America can stand in the way of Communism achieving its goal, if each person will make his own stand upon the precepts as taught in Christianity. For this reason I am attempting to keep myself informed, and not become too gullible. I am checking the sources and authenticity of the information. Much of the material which I have read, attacked liberalism, including liberal theologians. It even went so far as to black list many liberal writers of books used in our educational systems. I consider myself a liberal theologian, and have read many of the books and authors blacklisted, as well as many who were not on the list.

EX-111  
 REC-21

650

20 MAY 16 1961

One piece of material recently handed to me attacked the National Council of Churches in no uncertain terms. They accuse the National Council of Churches of being Communistic. They attack the United Nations and Unesco in particular, claiming that these are but the agents of Communism. They the Methodist Church in particular because it is the largest denomination in the National Council. They attack the President

MAY 8 1961

... on the front, and  
... as Walter ...  
... as being Communist. These articles quote quite freely from your  
office, in citing evidence against the National Council of Churches.

... in his attack that the National  
Council is Communist.

Some of the publications are: ...  
... Anti-Communists, published by the Free Enterprise Federation, 1111  
N. Wabash Ave, Chicago 2, Illinois. Another is a booklet entitled, Recognize  
...  
... Still another is a booklet published by the ...  
... D.C. Also these sources published  
... Do you feel as these articles claim  
... do you feel that  
... by the ...

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]



1 - Mr. Gurley

May 11, 1961

100-52869-649

EC-88

118

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

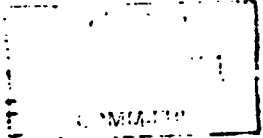
I have received your letter dated May 2, 1961, with its enclosures, and the interest which prompted your communicating with me is appreciated.

While I would like to be of assistance, the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the FBI, strictly an investigative agency of the Federal Government, do not extend to furnishing evaluations or comments concerning the character or integrity of any individual, organization, or publication. I am sure you will understand the necessity for this policy and will not infer that we do or do not have in our files the information you desire.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director



MAY 11 5 25 PM '61  
READING ROOM

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Correspondent enclosed with his letter two mimeographed sheets of paper stapled together, entitled "Patriotic Evangelical News Service (PENS)," a business reply envelope to PENS, and a "wanted" poster showing that Nikita Khrushchov is wanted for murder. The headquarters for PENS is shown as Post Office Box 213, Sioux City 1, Iowa. The mimeographed sheets purport to show the parallel of the objectives of the National Council of Churches and the objectives of the Communist Party.

- Tolson
- Parsons
- Mohr
- DeLoach
- Evans
- Malone
- Rosen
- Tavel
- Trotter
- W.C. Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Ingram
- Gandy

LTG:eab (3)

SEE NOTE ON YELLOW, CONTINUED, PAGE TWO.

62 MAY 16 1961 TELETYPE UNIT

[REDACTED]

NOTE ON YELLOW, CONTINUED:

The film "Operation Abolition" was prepared and distributed by the House Committee on Un-American Activities and the Bureau in connection with its preparation.

The National Council of the Churches of Christ has not been investigated by the Bureau. We have kept abreast of the efforts of the Communist Party to infiltrate it through our over-all investigations of the Communist Party, USA. It does not appear that the policies of this organization are being dictated by the Communist Party. (100-50800)

Bufiles contain no identifiable references to correspondent or to PMS.

TRUE COPY

[REDACTED]  
May 2, 1961

J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Recently a [REDACTED] passed through Valley City. While here he gave a talk on communism and a film entitled "Operation Abolition," which my roommate and I attended.

Due to his talk, the film, and the impression he left with us we think he was a communist. I am enclosing a pamphlet and an envelope which he left with us.

In this pamphlet it says that the National Council of Churches has the same goals as communism. My roommate and I don't know if this is true or not. But if he was communist it would be a good way to disorganize the churches.

We were wondering if what this pamphlet says is true or not. We would very much appreciate it if you could tell us whether or not he gave us a pamphlet put out by communists to cause confusion.

a college student.

/s/ [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

TRUE COPY

May 2, 1961

J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover

Recently a [redacted] passed through  
Valley City. While here he gave a talk on  
communism and a film entitled "Education  
abolition," which my roommate and I at-  
tended.

Due to his talk, the film, and the  
conference he left with us we think he was  
a communist. I am enclosing a pamphlet  
and an envelope which he left with us.

In the pamphlet it says that the Na-  
tional Council of Churches has the same goals  
as communism. My roommate and I don't  
know if this is true or not. But if it  
was communist it would be a good way  
to disorganize the churches.

We were wondering if what the pamph-  
let says is true or not. We would very  
much appreciate it if you could tell me what  
part of the government pamphlet put out by  
communists to cause confusion.

[redacted] a college student

[redacted]

EX-116

MAY 8 1961

EX-111  
REC-7

648

May 11, 1961

REC'D-READING ROOM  
FBI  
MAY 11 1 29 PM '61

MAY 9 5 07 PM '61

[Redacted]  
Dear [Redacted]

I have received your letter of April 30, with enclosure and do appreciate the interest which prompted your communication. I am pleased that you found my book, "Masters of Deceit," helpful in being able to better understand the devious methods employed by the communists.

The concern you expressed in your discussion is readily understandable, and I would like to emphasize the fact that the communists have tried to infiltrate every part of our society. Their efforts to destroy our form of government have been thwarted by our internal security programs; the investigation, arrest and prosecution of a number of Communist Party functionaries; and the rising tide of public opposition to the communist movement. Our churches have been and will continue to be important targets in the over-all subversive program of endeavoring to control all mass-type organizations, and we must remain alert to any attempts to replace our national traditions with the atheistic philosophy of communism.

It is essential that all of us be certain of the facts in dealing with communism. We must avoid the danger of confusing communism with legitimate dissent on controversial issues. The erroneous imputation of communism aids the communist cause by dividing and weakening our people when they need to be united and strong in order to defeat this evil conspiracy.

In view of your interest, I am enclosing some material which you may like to read.

MAILED 25  
MAY 11 1961  
COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

[Handwritten signature]

Enclosures (4)

JRS:bew (3)

(SEE ENCLOSURES & NOTE NEXT PAGE)

50 MAY 19 1961

Letter to [REDACTED]

**ENCLOSURES:**

Communism: Bitter Enemy of Religion

4-1-61 LEB Intro

4-17-61 Internal Security Statement

Series from "Christianity Today"

**NOTE:** Bufiles contain no record of correspondent. She enclosed a clipping from the Brownsville Herald of Friday, April 28, 1961, which contains Louis Cassels' recent article for United Press International entitled "Christianity - Communism, No Relationship Between the Two." No reply is being made to correspondent's statement, "I assume that your failure to direct remarks to specific things regarding the church was due to your position." (Commenting on Director's book, "Masters of Deceit")

[REDACTED]  
April 30, 1961

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Enclosed is an article published in the Brownsville Herald, Brownsville, Texas, April 28, 1961.

As one of the "self-appointed vigilantes," I felt that I must learn from you personally if this is indeed the attitude of your department concerning communism in the churches.

For many months a group within our church (Methodist) has tried to go through the proper channels in order to alert the congregation regarding literature which we believe to be unpatriotic and pro-communist. I was appointed chairman of this group and after many months of study, I have been shocked at the things that I have learned regarding our church.

I have always had a great deal of respect for your opinions and felt that I must correspond with you on this matter. I may be wrong, Mr. Hoover, but I am of the firm opinion that if anything is to be done on this matter, it will have to come from the lay members. It takes a brave minister indeed to speak out against the National Council of Churches.

I have read your book, Masters of Deceit, and found it most helpful in being able to better determine their devious methods. I, like too many other Americans, did not understand their methods. I accused that your failure to direct remarks to specific things regarding church was due to your position. However, since your name has been used in this article indicating there is no danger, I felt free to write to you.

We sat in church several Sundays ago and heard a sixteen-year-old boy give a report on a retreat which he and four others had attended. He told that he had been taught that home and family are of no importance, along with other things which made me wonder if it isn't already too late.

REC-7

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

-2-

April 30, 1961

It is very easy to label as rabble-rousers those who would question. I am not and have never been a rabble-rouser. I am instead a mother, frightened by the things being taught to our youth in, of all places, our church.

I shall look forward to hearing from you on this matter so heavy on my mind.

Sincerely,

A large, solid black rectangular redaction covers the signature and any text that might have been present below it.



## Christianity - Communism

# No Relationship Between The Two

By LOUIS CASSELS

United Press International

Christianity and Communism stand in the same relationship as yes and no, white and black, the North Pole and the South Pole.

They are categorical opposites.

Christianity affirms the sovereignty of God and ascribes infinite worth to each human being because he is a child of God.

Communism denies the existence of God, and values the individual only as an instrument and servant of the state.

No rational person can be a sincere Christian and a sincere Communist at the same time.

Communists know this. That is why they persecute Christian churches — sometimes openly, sometimes subtly—in every country in which they have gained power, from Russia to Cuba.

In free nations like America, Communists cannot suppress the churches but must think of other tactics.

### Attempts Made

Communists undoubtedly have tried in the past to infiltrate the churches by having disguised Communists work their way up to positions of leadership, particularly in the ranks of the clergy.

They have learned that this is easier said than done. As a practical matter, it is enormously difficult for a Communist to pose convincingly as a dedicated Christian even for the space of one conversation, let alone through the long years of seminary study and pulpit service which are required of any man who becomes an influential leader in U.S. church life.

But although they have failed to infiltrate the churches in any substantial way, there is evidence that the Communists like it when charges are made that they actually have done so.

The Communists know that in the present climate of American feeling, there is no surer way of discrediting the leadership of churches and of sowing confusion and discord among their lay members than for the suspicion to be nourished that a substantial number of Christian clergymen are secret supporters of the Communist conspiracy.

You may think all of this is far-fetched. But the Federal Bureau of Investigation does not.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover is deeply concerned about the danger that self-appointed "vigilantes" may, in the name of anti-Communism, play into the Communists' hands.

During the past few weeks, Hoover has sent FBI Chief Inspector William C. Sullivan to deliver speeches in many parts of the nation, warning Americans not to be taken in by charges that their churches are overrun with Reds.

"These allegations have served to create the impression among many Americans that the Protestant denominations in particular have been subjected to alarming infiltration and influence," Sullivan says. "But this is a patent falsehood. The truth of the matter is that the Communist party has not achieved any substantial success in exerting domination, control or influence over America's clergymen or religious institutions on a national scale."

### Has Hoover's Backing

Sullivan is not making this statement on his own authority. He is speaking with the full approval and personal backing of Hoover. And the FBI director has so informed a number of amateur Communist hunters, who wrote to him protesting Sullivan's speeches.

"The most interesting reaction," an FBI official told United Press International, "has been from the Communists. They are very upset by Sullivan's remarks."

"They love to have wild charges of Communist domination hurled against America's churches. They know that such charges cause consternation, disension, doubt and fear among church members. And they figure that anyone who succeeds in demoralizing America's churches is aiding their cause."

REC- 95/00-5077-647

May 12, 1951

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

I have received your letter of May 4, 1951. Your kind sentiments and expressions of confidence in this Bureau are appreciated.

"Operation Abolition" is sponsored by the House Committee on Un-American Activities and, as you know, "Communism on the Map" was prepared by the National Education Program of Searcy, Arkansas. Inasmuch as this Bureau had no connection with either of these films I am unable to comment concerning them.

While I would like to be of service to you regarding the other matters you mentioned, the FBI, as an investigative agency, does not furnish comments or evaluations concerning the character or integrity of any individual, organization or publication. I hope you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the subjects of your inquiry.

The interest which prompted your letter is appreciated and I do hope you can understand why it is not possible for me to furnish the information you desire. I am enclosing some material on the subject of communism which you may like to read.

Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

RECEIVED  
MAY 12 1951  
COMM-FBI

Enclosures (4) (See enclosures and note next page)

CJH:hmm (3)

MAY 12 9 27 PM '51  
READING ROOM

Tolson  
Ladd  
Nichols  
Belmont  
Clegg  
Glavin  
Harbo  
Rosen  
Tracy  
Mohr  
Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Holloman  
Gandy

[Handwritten signature]

Letter to [REDACTED]

**ENCLOSURES:**

4-17-61 Internal Security Statement

Communism: The Bitter Enemy of Religion

3-1-60 LEB Intro & 17th Nat'l Convention CPUSA

Series from "Christianity Today"

**NOTE:** Bufiles contain no information identifiable with correspondent. "Communism on the Map" was reviewed at the Bureau on 12-23-60. It stressed the rise of international communism and through statements and the use of newspaper headlines, it dealt freely in half-truths and innuendos to establish its point that international communism was encircling America. It was the opinion of reviewing Agents that it was not the type of material which should be endorsed by the FBI. The National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) includes in its membership the leading Protestant churches in the country. Various critics of the Council, without access to factual data to support their assertions, have claimed this group is communist-controlled or influenced. The FBI, of course, has not investigated the NCCC. (100-50369)

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Malone	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Savel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Ingram	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

May 4, 1961

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
 United States Department of Justice  
 Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Our community has been hit by a barrage of literature condemning the "National Council of Churches in Christ, America" as Communistic. The Revised Standard Version of the Bible as being done by thirty Communists, that about one third of the Protestant Ministers are communistic, opposing U.S. participation in the United Nations, Society of Friends (Quakers) and other such charges as these.

One group, "United Christian Study Group" of Hannibal, Mo. showed a filmstrip "Communism On The Map" by George S. Benson of the National Education Program which has upset many of us because it infers that Presidents, Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, V.P. Nixon, Sec. of State Herter, Milton Eisenhower, John Foster Dulles, Allan Dulles and others are associated with the Communist conspiracy in America.

I would ask of you, Mr. Hoover, to please give us short, to the point answers, instead of several pieces of literature (we will appreciate the literature too, of course) for us to try to discern as to what is right and wrong about the following questions:

1. Is the National Council of Churches of America labeled as a communist led group by the F.B.I.?
2. Is the National Council of Churches on the subversive list of your Department?
3. Do you consider the Revised Standard Version of the Bible as the work of communist inspired men, or men of God?
4. Do you believe that one third of the Protestant Ministry is composed of communists as stated in the Air-Force Manual and other literature or would you say that the vast majority are Christian men and good Americans?
5. Do you approve of the above mentioned filmstrip, "Communism on the Map?" being circulated with pamphlets by the F.B.I. in these meetings, which cast doubt on the leaders of our nation? Could these people be from the John Birch Society?

Is the film, "Operation Abolition" in your opinion above any criticism by the National Council of Churches for inaccuracies which the pamphlet "Operation Abolition" which the National Council has published and pointed out therein? I realize my questions somewhat put you on the spot but we need YOUR answers, definite and to the point. Every loyal American certainly should realize the threat which communism is to our way of life. I question, however, the practice of questioning the loyalty of people, even in high places, such as this filmstrip and as the John Birch Society are doing. It seems to me that this might be precisely what the communists want to happen. To cause fear, doubt and suspicion of our government of our nations top church leaders and our ministers.

REC-95

8 MAY 15 1961 1



2

I am deeply concerned for the church of Jesus Christ and for the future of our nation. I have always had great confidence in the ability of the F.B.I. to handle the problems which come before it. May God give you inspiration, knowledge and courage to carry out your task in the best possible manner. That He shall be high and lifted up and Freedom may be preserved and even increased in our land and around the world.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]



May 6 - 1961

Mr. S. Tozoo Horner,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Horner,

I thank you for your kind  
and considerate reply to my letter  
of April 10, 1961, re the criticism by  
the National Council of Churches  
of the film "Portrait of a Slave".

I will send you more copies of the  
film as soon as they are available.

REC-73

57 MAY 16 1961

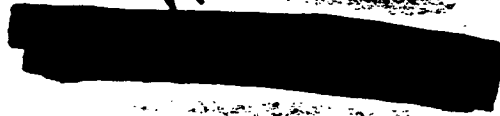
MAY 11 1961

EX-101

RESERVE

77

10  
10  
good advantage.  
Sincerely,



REC'D  
FBI  
MAR 8 3 01 PM '51

REC'D  
FBI  
MAR 8 3 01 PM '51

5/8  
12

EX 101

REC-73

645

May 8, 1961

[Redacted]

MAY 9 10 35 AM '61  
FBI  
READING ROOM

Dear [Redacted]

I have received your letter of May 1, with enclosure, and I appreciate the interest which prompted you to communicate with me on this occasion.

With respect to the article by Mr. Louis Cassels, I did want you to know that I am thoroughly familiar with Chief Inspector William C. Sullivan's presentation of the true nature and objectives of communism. He treated the subject with all possible objectivity, candor and accuracy. It is, of course, understandable that people will react differently to speeches, contingent upon their diverse experiences, viewpoints, knowledge and interests. Mr. Sullivan fully exposes the falseness of communist thought and practices and he strongly emphasizes its dangers. His remarks were fully approved by me.

Our churches have been and will continue to be important targets in the over-all communist program of endeavoring to control all mass-type organizations, and we must remain alert to such efforts to subvert our way of life. The communists have tried to infiltrate every part of our society, and I agree with you wholeheartedly that patriotic citizens must continue to take a firm stand against communism and must combat it wherever possible. But this opposition to communism must be careful, constructive and positive.

Enclosed is one of my recent statements on the menace of communism which you may like to have.

MAILED 25  
MAY 8 - 1961  
COMM.FBI

Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten initials]

[Handwritten initials]

- Tolson
- Parsons
- Mohr
- DeLoach
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

Enclosure

SEE ENCLOSURE AND NOTE NEXT PAGE

JMM:jms (3)

MAY 16



[REDACTED]

Enclosure  
4-61 LEB Introduction

NOTE: Bufiles reflect that we have had limited correspondence with Mrs. Hall,  
last outgoing 2-16-61 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Cassels  
was the author of an article concerning Mr. Tolson which appeared in "Nations  
Business" in December, 1954.

Page 1, 1961

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Since many of us have read the informative material, which you so kindly sent us some weeks ago, we are confused after reading the attached Louis Cassels article. If Mr. Sullivan is reflecting your views then we have had the rug pulled from under us.

As we understand it there is no law against being a Communist and for any action to be taken against a subversive element it has to be proved that there is a move to overthrow the government by force. When we see and hear concrete evidence that our ministers are promoting Un-American causes we feel it is our duty and privilege to investigate. Perhaps we are the "self appointed vigilantes". We find that the questionable material in our church literature, for the most part, comes from the National Council of Churches. How else can an individual church be removed from membership in the Council unless the members take some action? What else can we, as individuals, presume when ministers openly oppose "Operation Abolition", the investigative departments of our government, advocate recognition of Red China and promote the abolishment of the Connally Amendment? These are a few of the things promoted by the National Council of Churches.

We do not feel that most ministers are Communists but we do feel that too many are promoting the Communist cause. First we want to know - - - Just how can we take a stand against Un-American propaganda in our churches unless we voice our protests? Is there any agency in the government who will do this job for us? Second, does this Cassels article represent your thinking (in the places I have underlined)? If your reply indicates that you have been misquoted we would like to have your permission to use your letter as evidence. This one article will give our Un-patriotic element just the ammunition they need to silence our protests against subversive propaganda.

Please do not interpret this as a criticism of you personally. We have great faith in you and cannot feel that this article is in keeping with your thinking.

REC-73

EX 101

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

ENCLOSURE

COPIED

MAY 2 1961

[Handwritten notes and signatures]

[Handwritten notes]

# Christianity - Communism

## No Relationship Between The Two

By LOUIS CASSELS

United Press International

Christianity and Communism stand in the same relationship as yes and no, white and black, the North Pole and the South Pole.

They are categorical opposites. Christianity affirms the sovereignty of God and ascribes infinite worth to each human being because he is a child of God.

Communism denies the existence of God, and values the individual only as an instrument and servant of the state.

No rational person can be a sincere Christian and a sincere Communist at the same time.

Communists know this. That is why they persecute Christian churches — sometimes openly, sometimes subtly—in every country in which they have gained power, from Russia to Cuba.

In free nations like America, Communists cannot suppress the churches but must think of other tactics.

### Attempts Made

Communists undoubtedly have tried in the past to infiltrate the churches by having disguised Communists work their way up to positions of leadership, particularly in the ranks of the clergy.

They have learned that this is easier said than done. As a practical matter, it is enormously difficult for a Communist to pose convincingly as a dedicated Christian even for the space of one conversation, let alone through the long years of seminary study and pulpit service which are required of any man who becomes an influential leader in U.S. church life.

But although they have failed to infiltrate the churches in any substantial way, there is evidence that the Communists like it when charges are made that they actually have done so.

The Communists know that in the present climate of American feeling, there is no surer way of discrediting the leadership of churches and of sowing confusion and discord among their lay members than for the suspicion to be nourished that a substantial number of Christian clergymen are secret supporters of the Communist conspiracy.

You may think all of this is far-fetched. But the Federal Bureau of Investigation does not.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover is deeply concerned about the danger that self-appointed "vigilantes" may, in the name of anti-Communism, play into the Communists' hands.

During the past few weeks, Hoover has sent FBI Chief Inspector William C. Sullivan to deliver speeches in many parts of the nation, warning Americans not to be taken in by charges that their churches are overrun with Reds.

"These allegations have served to create the impression among many Americans that the Protestant denominations in particular have been subjected to alarming infiltration and influence," Sullivan says. "But this is a patent falsehood. The truth of the matter is that the Communist party has not achieved any substantial success in exerting domination, control or influence over America's clergymen or religious institutions on a national scale."

### Has Hoover's Backing

Sullivan is not making this statement on his own authority. He is speaking with the full approval and personal backing of Hoover. And the FBI director has so informed a number of amateur Communist hunters, who wrote to him protesting Sullivan's speeches.

"The most interesting reaction," an FBI official told United Press International, "has been from the Communists. They are very upset by Sullivan's remarks."

"They love to have wild charges of Communist domination hurled against America's churches. They know that such charges cause consternation, dissension, doubt and fear among church members. And they figure that anyone who succeeds in demoralizing America's churches is aiding their cause."

ENCLOSURE

REC-83  
EX-112

100 5067-644

May 9, 1961

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of May 1, 1961, with enclosure, has been received. I appreciate your interest in Chief Inspector William C. Sullivan's remarks, and it was good of you to give me the benefit of your observations.

It has always been my firm belief that a broad knowledge of the operations and objectives of the communist conspiracy is essential if we are to effectively resist its influence. Armed with this understanding, our people will be able to detect the communists as they attempt to infiltrate every segment of our American life.

You should find a wide variety of literature on communism available at your public library. You may also be interested in my book, "Masters of Deceit," which is a basic text on this subject and where, on pages 324 through 326, you will find a full discussion of the matter you mentioned. I am enclosing an outline of Mr. Sullivan's remarks, as well as some other material which may be of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

MAILED 25  
MAY 11 - 1961  
COMM-FBI

- Tolson
- Parsons
- Mohr
- DeLoach
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

- Enclosures (4)
- Communism and Religion
- Communism: The Bitter Enemy of Religion
- 4-17-61 statement by Director
- Series from "Christianity Today"
- SEE NOTE NEXT PAGE
- CJH:bew (3)

MAY 16 1961

READING ROOM  
MAY 9 3 42 PM '61  
FBI

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

5-9-61

**NOTE: Bufiles contain no information concerning correspondent. She enclosed a clipping of the United Press International article by Louis Cassels reporting Mr. Sullivan's remarks that Americans should not be taken in by allegations that their churches have been taken over by communists.**

[REDACTED]  
May 1, 1961

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Malone	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Ingram	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

The enclosed article from the April 30th Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch raises a question which I wish to ask you.

I believe that loyal Americans and Protestants who are disturbed by the present situation in churches, do not think that, (quoting Mr. Cassels), "a substantial number of Christian clergymen are secret supporters of the Communist conspiracy," or that "churches are overrun with Reds." However, we do believe that many clergymen have been misinformed about some important truths, and hence are dupes of the Communists.

When the National Council of Churches, (claiming to represent 39,000,000 of us), discredits the film "Operation Abolition," and when clergymen speak against this film and even commend and support those who cause disturbances at the showing of the film, I find it difficult to be silent. What should we do?

Would Mr. Sullivan's speeches (referred to and quoted in Mr. Cassels' article), answer my question? If so, are copies available? If Mr. Sullivan has spoken in this area, I have not seen notice of it.

There must be some course other than complete silence for "amateur Communist hunters" who want to do the right thing. Since I have the highest respect for you, and since the article expresses your concern that we may "in the name of anti-Communism, play into the Communists' hands," I seek your advice.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

MAY 11 1961

EXP. PROC.

MAY 4 1961

ENCLOSURE

FBI

**RELIGION**

**Commies-in-Churches  
Charges Please Reds**

By LOUIS CASSELS  
United Press International

Christianity and Communism stand in the same relationship as yes and no, white and black, the North Pole and the South Pole.

They are categorical opposites.

Christianity affirms the sovereignty of God and ascribes infinite worth to each human being because he is a child of God.

Communism denies the existence of God, and values the individual only as an instrument and servant of the state.

NO RATIONAL person can be a sincere Christian and a sincere Communist at the same time.

Communists know this. That is why they persecute Christian churches — sometimes openly, sometimes subtly — in every country in which they have gained power, from Russia to Cuba.

In free nations like America, Communists cannot suppress the churches but must think of other tactics.

COMMUNISTS undoubtedly have tried in the past to infiltrate the churches by having disguised Communists work their way up to positions of leadership, particularly in the ranks of the clergy.

They have learned that this is easier said than done. As a practical matter, it is enormously difficult for a Communist to pose convincingly as a dedicated Christian, even for the space of one conversation, let alone through the long years of seminary study and pulpit service which are required of any man who becomes an influential leader in U. S. church life.

tration and influence," Sullivan says.

"BUT THIS IS A patent falsehood. The truth of the matter is that the Communist Party has not achieved any substantial success in exerting domination, control or influence over America's clergymen or religious institutions on a national scale."

Sullivan is not making this statement on his own authority. He is speaking with the full approval and personal backing of Hoover.

And the FBI director has so informed a number of amateur Communist hunters who wrote to him protesting Sullivan's speeches.

"THE MOST interesting reaction," an FBI official told United Press International, "has been from the Communists. They are very upset by Sullivan's remarks."

"They love to have wild charges of Communist domination hurled against America's churches. They know that such charges cause consternation, dissonance, doubt and fear among church members. And they figure that anyone who succeeds in demoralizing America's churches is doing their cause."

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... moralizing American  
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COMMUNISTS undoubtedly  
have tried in the past to in  
filtrate the churches by hav  
ing disguised Communist  
work their way up to posi  
tions of leadership, partic  
ularly in the ranks of the  
clergy.

They have found that  
this is easier said than done.  
As a practical matter, it is  
enormously difficult for a  
Communist to pose convinc  
ingly as a dedicated Christian,  
even for the space of one  
conversation, let alone  
through the long years of  
seminary study and pulpit  
service which are required of  
any man who becomes an in  
fluential leader in the church  
life.

BUT ALTHOUGH they have  
failed to infiltrate the  
churches in any substantial  
way, there is evidence that  
the Communists like it when  
changes are made that they  
actually have done so.

The Communists know that  
in the present climate of  
American feeling, there is no  
surer way of discrediting the  
leadership of churches than  
sowing confusion and discord  
among their lay members  
than for the suspicion to be  
nourished that a substantial  
number of Christian clergy  
men are secret supporters of  
the Communist conspiracy.

You may think all of this  
is far-fetched. But the Fed-  
eral Bureau of Investigation  
has play into the Commun-  
ists' hands.

During the past few weeks  
Hoover has sent FBI chief in  
specter William C. Sullivan  
to deliver speeches in many  
parts of the nation, warning  
Americans not to be taken in  
by charges that their  
churches are overrun with  
Reds.

These allegations have  
served to create the impress  
ion among many Americans  
that the Protestant denomina  
tions in particular have been  
subjected to alarming infil-

CONFIDENTIAL



REC-75

100-20169-643 May 10, 1961

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of May 3, 1961, has been received, and the interest which prompted you to write is appreciated.

Although I would like to be of service, the FBI is an investigative agency of the Federal Government and, as such, does not make evaluations nor draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. I regret that I am unable to help you and hope that you will not infer in this connection either that we do or that we do not have data in our files relating to the subject of your inquiry.

Enclosed is some literature dealing with the general subject of communism which may be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Enclosures (3)  
Communist Illusion & Democratic Reality  
4-17-61 Statement  
The Communist Menace

SAW:js\* (3)

(See next page)

MAILED 25  
MAY 10 1961  
COMM-FBI

56 MAY 15 1961

MAY 10 4 16 PM '61  
RECEIVED ROOM  
FBI

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Bishop
- Mr. Casper
- Mr. Callahan
- Mr. Conrad
- Mr. Felt
- Mr. Gale
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Sullivan
- Mr. Tavel
- Mr. Trotter
- Mr. Tele. Room
- Miss Holmes
- Miss Gandy

**NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.**  
**The National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) includes in its membership the leading Protestant churches in the country. Various critics of the Council, without access to factual data to support their assertions, have claimed this group is communist controlled or influenced. The FBI, of course, has not investigated the NCCC. (100-50869)**

May 3, 1961

F. B. I.  
Washington D.C.

Gentlemen:

I would like to inquire as to the standing of the National Council of Churches. I have heard rumors that they were connected with communism. Is there any proof of this? May I have a summary of your report on this organization, please.

Thank you for giving this inquiry your attention.

Yours very truly,

REC-75

44-2086-64

MAY 31 1961

EX-117

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